

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

www.cenw.org.uk

Message from the Chair

Margaret Michie

As the days lengthen we become more convinced that the worst of winter is over and we have been spared from the snow of last year!

As spring arrives and I move around the area I see evidence of many of us starting to tidy up our gardens. This prompts me to remind you to keep back doors locked when in the front garden and front doors locked when you are in the back garden.

With the arrival of a food waste bin we now have 5 bins – can I encourage us all again this year, if we are able, to move our neighbours' bins back onto their property after they are emptied. This not only clears the pavements but also makes it less conspicuous that our neighbours are not at home.

Members of the committee have been busy over the past weeks keeping in touch with developments which are being mooted for the old surgery/nursing home at 157-159 Lanark Road West and on the Muir Wood Road Field. The Curriehill School site is also back on the market.

In the *Safer Communities Safer Scotland* booklet there are articles which cover safety and security. These give some very helpful hints and tips.

Remember, if you see something suspicious the best advice is to phone the Police. Our eyes and ears are there to assist the Police as they cannot be everywhere in our Watch area.

Silence of the Scams

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland

Perhaps you or someone you know has received letters that guarantee fantastic prizes, large sums of cash or miracle cures. Most of us know that these are empty promises and the letters go straight into the bin. However, it is estimated that over 3 million people per year become scam victims, losing a total of around £3.5 billion - about £70 for every adult in Britain.

Unfortunately, it's usually the more vulnerable members of society who are targeted by scammers. They cleverly use language that is designed to win trust and persuade people to part with their money.

Remember, if you receive a letter, email or phone call that urges you to send money or your personal details in order to claim a prize, it is most likely a scam. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

Below are some common types of scam to *Look-Out* for.

Advance Fee/419 Scam/Nigerian Scam

Someone needs your help to transfer money from another country, generally due to some kind of unrest or disaster. They will ask you to send a fee and/or give your bank details. You are promised a percentage of the total, which you will never receive.

Psychics & Miracle cures

You may be contacted by someone who claims to have psychic ability. They may claim that something terrible will happen to you if you do not respond. Similarly you may be contacted about miracle cures for various ailments. The evidence may be compelling, but the 'cures' are worthless and can sometimes be harmful.

Lotteries and other prizes

If you receive something telling you that you have won a lottery or prize draw that you never entered, the likelihood is that it is a scam. Generally they will ask for an 'administration' fee, or for you to call a premium rate number to claim it. You will probably not receive a prize, or it will be worth far less than you have paid out to receive it.

Phishing

If you receive an email from any source asking you to send your bank or personal details, even apparently from your own bank, then just delete it. Never enter your bank details after following a link in an unsolicited email. Always visit your bank by typing the address directly into your browser. Your bank may contact you by email, but will never ask you to follow a link and supply details.

Telephone/ Mailing Preference Service

In a previous *Lookout* we told you about the *Telephone Preference Service* (www.tpsonline.org.uk) for reducing unwanted marketing phone calls and the *Mailing Preference Service* (www.mpsonline.org.uk) for reducing unwanted marketing mail through the post. If you do not have access to the internet then please note you can also register by phone using the following numbers:

Telephone Preference Service:	0845 070 0707
Mailing Preference Service:	0845 703 4599

No Cold Caller stickers

Although we have not set up an official No Cold Caller Zone in the Watch area, we have a stock of “We Don’t Buy At The Door” stickers available for any members who wish to display one at their door to deter unwanted cold callers. If you would like one, please contact one of the following committee members who will be able to get one to you:

Margaret Michie	449 6587	Bob Kerr	449 2359
Gill Burnside	449 4742	Ian Smith	449 5199
Archie Clark	449 4703		

Alternatively you can request one by sending an email to Margaret Michie (chair@cenw.org.uk).

Subscriptions

The membership subscription of £1 is now due to be paid. Please hand this sum to your distributor.

Information Packs, Wheelie-bin stickers and lamppost signs are the visible presence of where your subscriptions are being spent.

With this edition of Lookout you should have received a copy of ***Safer Communities Safer Scotland***. This brochure is filled with useful information, advice and tips. We suggest you store it in the Information Pack previously distributed to each household.

What is your view?

If you have any comments about the Watch or Lookout, please let us hear from you. Do you have a good tip to pass on to other members of the Watch? Is there a subject you think ought to be covered in Lookout? If so, please contact us - either attend a committee meeting or see below for contact details.

The next committee meeting is on the 11th of June at 7:30pm in Currie Kirk Meeting House. Members of the Watch are always welcome to attend any committee meeting.

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).

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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.