

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

www.cenw.org.uk

Message from the Chair

Margaret Michie

As I come to the end of my time as Chair of the committee it has been a privilege to serve the Watch in this position for the past two years and I thank all the committee for their support and enthusiasm.

Despite the sluggish housing market we continue to welcome new neighbours to the area. If you are new to the area please try to come along to the AGM in October. It is an interesting meeting with refreshments served afterwards and is a really useful way of getting to know your neighbours and becoming a part of the community.

Having enjoyed the best summer for many years we now need to prepare for the long dark nights of winter. Lock away your garden tools, secure your garden sheds and look out for one another.

AGM

Tuesday 29th October 2013

Entry from 7:15pm for 7:30pm start

Gibson Craig Halls

Guest speakers

Refreshments will be provided

Police service restructuring

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland

Police Scotland is now the 2nd largest force in the UK after the Metropolitan Police and is responsible for an area of over 28,000 square miles.

Although the changes which have been made are extensive, the public have seen very little change in day to day policing and how we keep people safe. There are the same community officers in the same local areas responding to incidents in the places they know well. Local Policing remains the engine room of Police Scotland.

However, some changes have been made. Since March this year the new Specialist Crime Division has been up and running. This new national service has a network of experienced detectives all across the country that are supporting local policing teams if and when they are needed.

The new national non-emergency number – 101 – was launched in late February. Now the public has one, easy to remember, number which they can use to contact Police wherever they are in the country. The 101 number allows the public to speak directly to a local officer to report non-emergency crimes such as vandalism and discuss any concerns they have about crime in their area.

Source: Neighbourhood Watch Scotland newsletter June 2013

Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service - Fight Against Fire

Did you know that you can get a free home safety visit from the Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service?

During this visit, LBFRS trained assessors will examine the levels of fire risk within your home, and provide guidance and advice. If required they can also supply and install battery operated smoke alarms free of charge.

If you are interested in having such a visit, please contact LBFRS via email at **community.safety@lbfire.org.uk** or Freephone **0800 1690320**.

Preventing Bike Theft

Neighbourhood Watch Scotland

A number of areas in Scotland are experiencing bicycle thefts at the moment. Police Scotland are urging people to take care and follow this advice:

If your bike is stored in a shed or garage:

- Keep the door locked
- Fit a good quality padlock to the door, using non-return screws
- Cover windows with old curtains and fit wire mesh inside
- Install a shed/garage alarm
- Lock your bike with two locks to a ground anchor

Protecting your bike:

- Photograph your bike, take down all your bike details in a bike passport and keep it in a safe place
- Find and note your bike serial number – usually on the crankshaft, underneath pedals.
- Insure your bike, either on contents insurance or separately.
- Security mark the frame with UV pen or other method. Mark your bike with your initials and post code or some other personalised mark that is unique to you.

Out and about:

- Lock your bike up every time you leave it, even for a few minutes
- Use good locks: good quality D-locks or thick cable locks are the most secure
- Ideally, use two different types of locks – a thief will need more tools to steal it
- Lock through the frame and wheel to an immovable object, such as a bike rack, tree, or lamppost
- Lock your bike in a busy, well-lit place, in view of other people or CCTV cameras
- Make the lock and bike hard to move when parked
- Remove accessories such as lights, pumps, water bottles, saddles and saddlebags

National Personal Safety Day

National Personal Safety Day, organised by Suzy Lamplugh Trust, is an annual event aimed at highlighting some of the simple, practical solutions that everyone can use to help avoid violence and aggression in today's society. It's about helping people live safer, more confident lives.

National Personal Safety Day – 14 October, 2013



This year's awareness campaign, **StreetsAhead**, is about safety on the streets. Find out more about the campaign and how you can get involved by visiting the website:

<http://www.nationalpersonalsafetyday.co.uk/>

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.