

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

www.cenw.org.uk

Message from the Chair

Iain Proudfoot

2014 is now underway and we look forward to lighter nights and sunny days. This will make it easier for us to see our neighbours and keep an eye-out on our community.

We are all part of the Neighbourhood Watch and can ensure a safer community for all. If you see anything suspicious, report this to the Police. 999 is for an emergency situation which requires an immediate Police response. 101 is for all other calls.

Trading Standards have reminded people that bogus workmen are 'out and about'. Take care and if it sounds too good to be true then it probably is.

Subscriptions are now due and have been maintained at £1.00 per household. It is hoped that you feel this is value for money, given items that have been provided in previous years. This time you are being provided with a torch which it is hoped you will find useful. Comments regarding items that the Watch can provide in the future may be made to the contact details at the end of Lookout or via your distributor.

TAKE CARE AND BE SAFE.

Dynamo torch

Along with this issue of Lookout, members should have received a dynamo torch from your distributor. Please note that this torch does not require batteries.

More house-breakings in Currie

There were more house-breakings in Currie in February. In one incident the occupants were merely out for a few hours in the evening. The perpetrators went round the back and simply smashed the lower pane of the double-glazed back door with a piece of slab and crawled in. Small valuables such as watches, jewellery and money were taken.

Please be on your guard. If you see anyone behaving suspiciously (even just a stranger going round the back of a neighbour's house) please keep an eye out and record any details you can. Call the Police immediately if you believe a crime may be in progress.

Fake promotional materials

City of Edinburgh Trading Standards has had reports of fake promotional materials being delivered in the Edinburgh area. The leaflets are designed to look like well known, reputable companies but the details are incorrect, connecting callers to unknown individuals as the 0800 numbers divert to mobiles.

If you receive leaflets or other promotional materials through your door, please take care to check that details are correct by using a telephone book or the internet before contacting the company. Always make sure you know who you are dealing with, and shop around for the best deal before making a purchase.

Beat Doorstep crime

Trading Standards Scotland and Police Scotland recently launched a campaign aimed at reducing doorstep crime. It urges victims, potential victims and their families and friends to call their local trading standards service immediately if they have suspicions about someone who has come to their door.

As part of their campaign, they are recommending that consumers consider the following advice:

Don't feel pressurised into agreeing to immediate work.

Never listen to scare stories and beware of traders who suddenly appear after storms or floods, and of claims that a low price is only available if you sign up right away.

Don't agree to buy from the first person who calls.

Ask yourself if you really want these goods or services.

Don't pay cash up front.

Never pay for work before it is completed and don't hand over large sums of money.

Do shop around if you decide you need work done.

Get a minimum of three quotes from reputable traders and get recommendations from people you trust.

Do ask what your cancellation rights are.

Remember for jobs costing over £35, traders are required to provide the consumer with a written notice informing them they have a seven day cooling off period during which they can change their mind and cancel the contract.

Finally, Do report them.

Don't ever feel embarrassed if you feel you have been the victim of doorstep crime. If you are in any way unsure about a caller at your door, contact Trading Standards or the Police immediately.

Edinburgh Trading Standards can be contacted on **0131 529 3030**.

Email hacking

Has your e-mail account been hacked? Have recipients in your contacts list received emails that appear to be from you? There are a number of ways this can happen.

One way is via a malware infection on your PC. If your PC is infected then the malware can access all the contacts from your email program and send them malicious emails. To reduce the risk of this happening, keep an up-to-date anti-virus installed on your PC and run regular scans. Avoid installing software you are in any way unsure about, especially if offered to you in an email.

Another way is that a hacker could have obtained access to your online email account with your ISP and retrieved the contact list from there. To avoid this, ensure you use a secure password and change it immediately, along with your security questions, if you suspect someone else has accessed it.

Unfortunately once a hacker has obtained your list of contacts there is no way to undo this. There is also unfortunately no way to prevent anyone else using your email address as the “From” address.

If you receive an email from someone you know that contains suspicious wording and does not look like something they would send, let them know, but do not click on any links or attachments and just delete the email.

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.