

# ***LOOK-OUT***

**Currie East Neighbourhood Watch**

*www.cenw.org.uk*

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*Message from the Chair*

*Iain Proudfoot*

Now that summer is over and autumn looms large, it is a time to look over the security of our homes and prepare for the darker nights. Are sheds, huts and garages secure? Do security lights work? Are our neighbours OK, or do they need any help or assistance? Let's not forget that Neighbourhood Watch is also about being a good neighbour.

As a member of the Watch your voice is important to us in the Committee to ensure we are doing the job you expect us to do. Your comments, both positive and negative, suggestions and assistance would be most welcome. Your next opportunity to get involved is at the forthcoming AGM.

## **AGM**

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014

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

Gibson Craig Halls

Guest speakers

Refreshments will be provided

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**Police Scotland - 101 (or 999 in an emergency)**

### ***Suspect callers***

Police Scotland is encouraging residents to get in touch should they have concerns regarding anyone who calls on them unannounced in unusual circumstances or if they see anyone acting suspiciously around their home.

The advice from the authorities is:

- Keep your front and back doors locked.
- Use the door viewer or nearby window before answering the door.
- Fit a door chain or bar - and use it.
- Only let callers in if they have an appointment and you have confirmed they are genuine.
- Ask for identification, but don't rely on it - it can sometimes be fake.
- If you don't know who the caller is and you're not expecting them, don't let them in.
- Don't be persuaded by persistent callers: if need be, arrange a different time when a family member or friend can be there.
- Look out for those in your community and report any suspicious activity to Police Scotland on 101.
- If the person refuses to leave or you feel scared or threatened, phone 999 and ask for the Police.
- Remember, if in doubt keep, them out.

### ***Antisocial behaviour in Currie***

Many Watch members will have read about the vandalism in Muir Wood Park in the September edition of C&B News. While it is disappointing that the act of a few can spoil the enjoyment for the majority, it is hoped that those responsible will be caught.

While the park is in the Watch area all we can ask is that people are aware of what is going on and report any wrongdoing to the Police. 999 is for an emergency situation with 101 for all other calls. Should you become aware of an incident you can also call, anonymously, to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 with any information.

## *Scottish Fire & Rescue Service*

Often the Fire & Rescue Service is overlooked as a community safety partner because people think of it as an emergency response service only. The Service also provides advice on a range of safety risks:

What causes fires?

- Most fires in the home are caused by forgetfulness or distraction whilst cooking.
- Unsafe disposal of smouldering cigarettes, tobacco or matches is the most common cause of fatal fires.
- A lack of concentration, forgetfulness or cognitive impairment (which may be due to dementia) are the most serious risk factors for accidental fires, fire casualties and fatalities in the home.
- Some illnesses and types of disability can make it difficult to respond safely if there is a fire.
- Candles left unattended pose a risk and should be kept away from children and pets, and from curtains or other flammable materials.

The risk of fire and fire injury increases as people get older, or when there are pets or young children in the household, but there are simple measures which can prevent fires and give early warning if there is a fire:

It is essential that your home has a working smoke alarm on each level of the property. If a fire starts, this will give you and your family time to get to safety.

Doors slow down the spread of potentially deadly smoke and flames, so it is important to remember to close them at night.

As part of their commitment to building a safer Scotland the Fire & Rescue Service offer everyone in Scotland a free home fire safety visit. They can also fit smoke alarms free of charge if required. You can get in touch with them to request a *free* safety assessment visit by calling 0800 0731 999.

In the event of a fire your first priority should be to ensure everyone gets out of the house to safety. Call the Fire & Rescue Service on 999, from a neighbour's house if necessary.

## ***Roof cleaning scam***

Police have had reports of people in a neighbouring area with ladders offering roof cleaning services. After looking at the roof, they then claim there is damage or rot which requires repairs costing thousands of pounds.

Please be on the lookout for any suspicious activity within your area, and keep an eye out for your neighbours.

The City of Edinburgh Trading Standards Team advise against agreeing to buy goods or services at the door. Always get multiple quotes from traders that have been recommended to you. Never agree to have work carried out on your property by someone that has cold called saying that you need work done.

The Trading Standards team can be contacted on 0131 529 3030 or via email at [trading.standards@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:trading.standards@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## ***Committee Meeting***

Our next Committee Meeting after the AGM is on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December at 7:30pm in Currie Kirk meeting house. All of our Watch members are welcome to join us.

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.