

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

www.cenw.org.uk

Message from the Chair

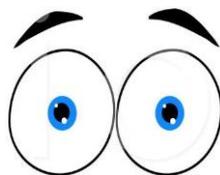
Iain Proudfoot

This edition of Lookout comes to you slightly later than usual as a result of Easter and School Holidays falling at the start of April. To those of you who have been away for a break, I trust that you enjoyed yourselves and that you undertook all the necessary security precautions while your house was empty.

It appears that housebreaking was on the increase in Edinburgh over the last year and Police Scotland did set up a dedicated team to deal with this problem. It appears to have had some success as arrests of several individuals have been made. Hopefully the appropriate punishment will now be applied to these individuals.

Now is the time for the collection of the Annual Subscription. Maintained, again, at the princely sum of £1.00. It is hoped that you feel you get value for this modest sum. The collection of the subscription will be undertaken along with the distribution of this edition of Lookout. Please hand your Membership Subscription to your Lookout Distributor.

Enjoy your summer and hopefully it will be sunny and crime-free. Keep your eyes peeled!!!



Police Scotland - 101 (or 999 in an emergency)

LED street lights

As you may be aware, Edinburgh Council are currently replacing the bulbs on their street lights with more efficient LED bulbs. Whilst these have the advantages of lower energy usage and longer lifespan, one consequence is that the coverage is much more limited as they are more directional. Some consider this an advantage (less light pollution or invasive lighting into bedrooms), but others have complained that the reduced coverage is leaving large areas of the street in darkness. If you feel this is causing an issue in your area then please contact Currie Community Council, who have been liaising with the Council regarding complaints about the new lighting.

The reduced coverage may also result in the front or sides of your property being less well lit, with the associated security implications this brings. Whilst keeping the streets safely lit is the Council's responsibility, lighting your property is obviously your own responsibility. We would recommend reviewing the security around your property and considering installing security lighting if your home is affected by this.

Sky cold caller scam

Please be aware that scammers are currently targeting households by calling up pretending to be from Sky and attempting to get your bank details. To appear authentic they will ask for you by name and state that their information shows that you pay by direct debit. They will then tell you that your Sky viewing card is about to expire and that they need some information in order to send you a new one. They will ask you for your sort code and the last four digits of your account number. Some time later they will call again claiming you have overpaid and that they wish to refund you, at which point they will ask for the rest of your bank details.

Please be on the lookout for this or similar scams and never give out your bank details to anyone who calls, however genuine they may appear.

If you believe you have been targeted in this way then please report the incident via the **Action Fraud** website **www.actionfraud.police.uk** or by calling **0300 123 2040**.

How to spring clean your home security

Police Scotland

As the nights become lighter we begin to enjoy the outdoors more and think about days away and holidays. This is the ideal time to have a spring clean of your security. Here are a few things to consider:

- Do you keep your keys in sight of a window?
- If you have an alarm do you use it every time you go out? Is it zoned?
- Have you recorded all of the serial numbers for your electrical equipment?
- Are your valuables easily accessible?
- Have you uploaded your photos to the cloud or on to a hard drive?

The following tips could help prevent your house from becoming a statistic:

- Ensure your locks conform to British Standard and meet the requirements of your insurance company.
- Keep doors and windows locked, even when you are in the house.
- Keep car keys secure and hidden at all times.
- If you are out whilst it is dark, consider using light timers or leaving a light on.
- Fit and use outside security lights, such as motion sensor lights
- Window locks should be fitted where appropriate and used all the time. Do not leave the key in the lock.
- Mark all your electrical equipment with an ultraviolet marker pen or register at www.immobilise.com
- At the front of the house hedges or trees should be trimmed or cropped so as not to provide cover for thieves.
- Laptop computers and mobile phones are favourite housebreaking targets. These should be locked away or removed from view. Add tracking software to smart phones, laptops and tablets to aid in the recovery of these items
- Consider investing in a safe or strong box for storage of cash and valuables. Ideally, a safe should be securely fixed to the fabric of the building and should only be used for short-term storage of cash.
- Consider installing an intruder alarm system. More information can be found on alarm systems and monitoring at www.nsi.org.uk or www.ssaib.org

- Secure your shed and all tools that may be used to force entry.
- Consider the use of a shed alarm

Whilst some of the above items involve a cost, this should be balanced against the loss (both personal and financial) that could result from a break-in.

If you see anyone acting suspiciously near to your premises please contact the police immediately with as detailed a description as possible of any person or vehicle involved. Please call 999 if an emergency and urgent police assistance is required or 101 to report the matter to the police.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

There is an excellent pamphlet issued by the Fire Service entitled ‘Your Guide to Fire Safety’. Much of the information contained within it is available at www.firescotland.gov.uk

You can request a free home fire safety visit by texting ‘fire’ to 61611 or calling 0800 0731 999 or 0800 1690 320. The local area office at Sighthill can be contacted on 0131 453 6659 or 0131 453 4354.

If you have the free Home Safety Visit it is understood that you will be given a copy of ‘Your Guide to Fire Safety’.

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.