

LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

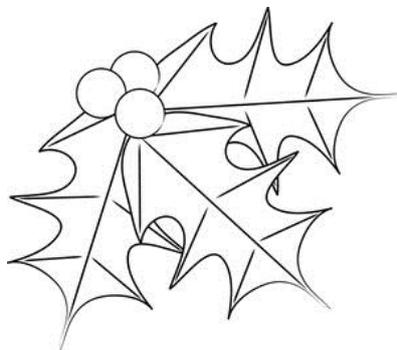
www.cenw.org.uk

Message from the Chair

Neil Dickson

Hello and welcome to the last edition of Lookout for 2015. As a brief introduction, I have taken over from Iain Proudfoot as Chair and on behalf of Watch members would like to extend a warm thanks to Iain for his sterling work over the last two years in the ongoing development of a safer neighbourhood. I have recently retired after almost 50 years of service in the public sector and now look forward to taking on the responsibilities of the Chair and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

As we enter the Festive season, please take a moment to consider the plight of a number of residents in Currie who will not meet or be visited by anyone on Christmas Day. There are also a number of TV adverts currently highlighting this issue across the country. So if you can make a special effort on Friday 25th December 2015 to pop-in and say hello to your neighbours and other people that you may normally bump into on any other day of the year.



Police Scotland - 101 (or 999 in an emergency)

AGM 2015

This year's AGM was attended by 28 members of the Watch along with a crew from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service with a fire engine. No there was not a fire or fireworks. The Fire and Rescue Service provided our guest speaker, Graeme Wilson, for the evening. This was one of the most interesting and informative talks we have had at any of our AGMs, and we have had some good speakers from Special Branch, Trading Standards, Police and Politicians, local and national.

Work covered by the Fire Service include fires, road traffic collisions, animal and humanitarian services, air, rail and sea incidents, rope rescue, urban search and rescue, international rescue, flooding and water rescue, incidents involving chemical, biological, radiation or nuclear attack. Eyes were certainly opened with the extensive work that is undertaken, and all those in attendance benefited from an enjoyable and informative talk.

Normal Watch business was undertaken with Neil Dickson taking over as the Chair of the Watch. Office Bearers and Committee Members were elected, but new Committee members would be welcomed as there have been a few resignations.

A reminder from the Fire & Rescue service – would you like a FREE home fire safety check? That is another service that is provided. You can arrange this for yourself or a family member. Call **0800 0731 999** or go to **www.firescotland.gov.uk**

Mobile Phone ICE contact

Do you have your ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact details in your mobile phone's address book? If something happens to you then the emergency services will typically look for an entry named ICE to contact your loved ones. You can also put multiple entries as ICE1, ICE2, etc. in case the first contact cannot be reached.

Many people already have these in their phone's address book but forget that members of the emergency services won't be able to unlock their phones to read it. The solution to this is to put the information on your phone's lock screen so it is visible without needing to unlock the phone.

Ready for Winter

Whilst accurately forecasting the weather is a challenging task, current indications are that it is possible that we could see a repeat of the extreme weather conditions that prevailed during the winter of 2010-2011, the last big freeze.

Advice from Edinburgh City Council is to be prepared so as to help yourself and neighbours by taking a few sensible steps:

In preparation for the winter:

- Have your heating system checked and serviced, as well as any portable heaters you may have as a backup
- Stock up with salt and grit, available from a number of retail outlets. If you know of a neighbour who would not be able to manage this task then offer to deliver a supply to their home.
- Source a robust snow shovel
- Keep some non-perishable food stocks, e.g. tinned soup
- Have your car checked for the winter and make sure your tyres have sufficient tread

During severe winter weather:

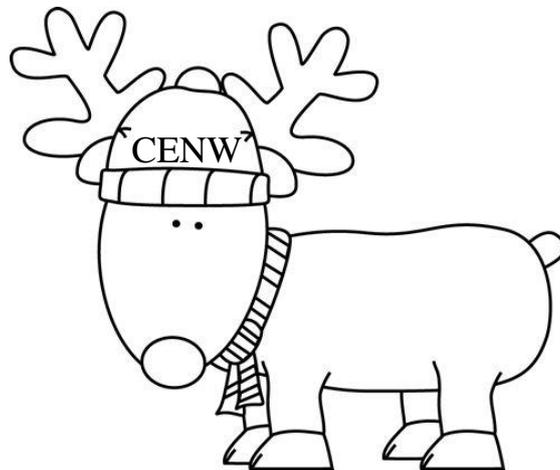
- Keep a lookout for any vulnerable neighbours
- Keep up to date with weather and travel information from local radio and other sources
- Stay warm, but be careful if using portable heaters as these can be a fire hazard if placed too close to flammable materials
- Avoid using your car unless absolutely necessary
- Help by clearing snow and ice in your area if you are able to do so
- Don't leave your car where it may block buses, gritters or emergency vehicles
- In the event of a power cut, remember your wind-up CENW torch. If you do feel you need to use candles then please be extremely careful as these are a common cause of house fires.

Crimestoppers

We'd like to remind our members about the independent charity **Crimestoppers**, which allows you to provide information anonymously. Information from the public really does make a difference. According to Crimestoppers, over 8,000 pieces of crime information were acted on by Police and other authorities in Scotland last year. This meant: 367 criminals were arrested and charged, 36 guns, knives and ammunition were removed, and £223,000 worth of drugs were seized. This would not have been possible without the help of the public.

0800 555 111 or **www.crimestoppers-uk.org**

No calls are recorded or traced – no statements – no witness – no court.



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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.