

# ***LOOK-OUT***

**Currie East Neighbourhood Watch**

*www.cenw.org.uk*

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*Message from the Chair*

*Neil Dickson*

If you are a client of the Currie branch of the Bank of Scotland you will have recently received a letter from the bank notifying you that the branch will close on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016. For residents and businesses in Currie and the surrounding area this is a sad loss of a valuable and local facility in the neighbourhood. I recently attended a meeting, led by Currie Community Council together with local counsellors and business interests, with senior officials of the bank. However during discussions it became clear that the bank was not for reconsidering its decision. The bank did advise that it is considering the provision of a level of banking service with a third party, details of which will be forthcoming at a later date. Whilst we see the loss of a local amenity we would hope that whoever takes over the bank premises can bring some added benefit to the community.

## **AGM & Special Event**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016, Gibson Craig Halls**

To coincide with the AGM there will be a special presentation by experts on the subjects of:

- Home Security – how to improve security of your home and valuables
- Fraud - how to recognise impersonation and deception scams

Entry from 7:15pm for **7:30pm start**, refreshments will be provided

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

### ***Taxi to the airport***

In the previous issue of Lookout we included an article about taking taxis to the airport, and the potential risks of giving too much information about holiday plans away to strangers. We also suggested considering getting a lift from a trusted neighbour or nearby relative as a possible alternative. In response to this article we received some comments from local taxi drivers, concerned about the potential impact on their business.

We would like to reiterate that the vast majority of taxi drivers are honest and reliable, and any conversations about holiday plans with your driver are in almost all cases just pleasant chit-chat. If taking a taxi, always use a reputable licenced taxi company, and use your common sense. We are not aware of any cases locally where there was evidence that a taxi driver was complicit in a burglary, and in the cases that prompted the article it may be that the residents' suspicions were unfounded.

However, our advice about being cautious discussing your holiday plans with strangers, or in public places and on social media, still stands. This applies anywhere - casual conversation with someone in the local shops could be overheard by a stranger with malicious intent. Use your common sense and be aware of any strangers that may be around you when discussing holiday plans.

### ***Volunteers required***

The Watch would not be able function without the much appreciated help of our many volunteer distributors and committee members. In order that the Watch can continue, we are looking for volunteers to help with the task of distribution of the Lookout. If you would be willing to assist with distribution, or get more involved by joining us on the committee, then please contact the Chair (details on the last page), or alternatively join us at the AGM where you can find out more from a committee member.



## ***Fraud Prevention***

It is very important that everyone knows the types of scams to look out for and how they can protect themselves, as people are not always who they say they are.

If you receive an unexpected phone call from an organisation, even if it is one you trust, be wary of providing any information or carrying out any action and take a few minutes to think about what is being asked of you. If in any doubt about the authenticity of the caller, then do not hesitate to hang up. You can always call the organisation back on a number which you know to be correct, not one that you have just been given. Do not be afraid to explain to an organisation you want to call them back - if they are legitimate, they will understand and comply with your request.

Banks and other organisations do sometimes send genuine text messages to their customers to provide information and as part of their security processes, which is why fraudsters use this method. Be wary of any unexpected text messages or emails and do not click on any links or provide personal information, unless you are certain the message is genuine.

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, then you should contact the relevant institution and the Police as soon as possible.

## ***Doorstep Crime***

If you feel well able to spot and stop criminals at the door, is the same true of your friends, family and neighbours? Here are some simple steps they can take to reduce their level of risk:

- Always ask for ID, though be aware these can easily be faked
- Don't keep large sums of money at home
- Ensure your doors and windows are locked, even when in
- Report any suspicious activity immediately
- Call 999 and ask for the police if you feel scared or threatened

Police Scotland is working hard to get these messages out to vulnerable people, through radio, social media and press, but they need your help. If

you'd like to pass around some of the new "Beat Doorstep Crime" booklets to friends, family and other Watch members, these can be obtained from Police Scotland. Call 101 to request a copy, or download it from the Police Scotland website.

If you have any information on the felons carrying out these devastating crimes, you can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously. They don't trace or record calls and you don't have to make a statement, be a witness or go to court. No one will ever know you called. Call **0800 555 111** or visit their website at **crimestoppers-uk.org**.

### *Neighbourhood Watch success*

Many people ask what benefit is provided by Neighbourhood Watch. Earlier this year, following advice given in Lookout, neighbours noticed four hooded individuals attempting to break into a house in our Watch area, intent on stealing car keys for very valuable car that was parked outside the house. The Police were called via 999. Owing to the actions of the neighbours, the perpetrators took fright and abandoned their attempt.

Thanks to the vigilance of these Watch members, this potential crime was averted, and hopefully these individuals may be deterred from returning to the area.

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.