



December 2016 - No 28

# LOOK-OUT

Currie East Neighbourhood Watch

[www.cenw.org.uk](http://www.cenw.org.uk)

## *Message from the Chair*

*Neil Dickson*

Is it just an age thing that we observe there are always 365 days in a year + 1 every leap year and yet, Christmas seems to come around quicker compared to the previous year? Or is it just the pace of everyday living! Christmas can be a time of reflection – what went well over the last year and what not so well. The arrival of new family members or new and *considerate neighbours* and for some the loss of people close to our hearts. So on Christmas Eve consider raising a glass or a cuppa and toast “to absent friends and family”.

Christmas can also be a time of hope and good cheer as we look to the future in such uncertain times. To quote some words from the remake of Scrooge (1998) “Christmas Eve, the one night of the year when we all act a little nicer, smile a little easier and for a couple of hours out of the whole year, we are the people that we always hoped we would be!”

The Festive period can be a lonely time for many residents with sadly Christmas being no different than any other time of the year. It would therefore be fantastic if we could be a better and more *considerate neighbour* and spare some time and for your fellow residents in Currie who are on their own. Whether living next door, a few doors down or across the street, neighbours who in a normal week rarely have any visitors never mind on Christmas Day of all days! So let’s take up a challenge that during this Christmas to pop in, with a bit of shortbread or mince pies, and see a neighbour for a cuppa and a natter.

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



## **AGM & Special Events – Chair Report**

An almost packed hall presided over the CENW 2016 AGM. The audience acknowledged that whilst Currie may have a relatively low crime rate compared to other parts of Edinburgh and Lothians, the continuing problem of house breaking is still a major concern taking into account the emotional as well as financial impact on residents within the neighbourhood.

The audience were advised that CENW Committee maintain ongoing dialogue with Police Scotland about the problem, through attendance at such events as Neighbourhood Watch Scotland AGM and regular Currie Community Council meetings. Attendees were also reminded of the April 2016 edition of Look-Out which contained an article on “Considerate Neighbours” and were fully supportive of encouraging residents, new and less new, in Currie to show basic courtesy of saying “hello” to fellow residents when for example waiting for a bus or in a queue waiting to be served in a local shop. If we all embraced this action we would bring back a ‘village’ feel to the community. So just do it!

The AGM also included a warmly received practical demonstration from Scott Miller of Home Security Scotland. He highlighted issues with various lightweight household locking mechanisms commonly fitted to doors and windows and compared these with a range of heavier and more robust options. The presentation on fraud, impersonation and deception scams, unfortunately did not go ahead due to issues outwith our control. However, a verbal update was given on the expansion of Molly’s, Juniper Green, who having taken over the premises previously known as Wood’s Deli and will now operate on both sides of Lanark Road. The opening of this new venture by Molly’s was keenly anticipated.

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



## Some Good News

At the Currie Community Council meeting on 14 November 2016, Police Scotland advised that as a result of recent reorganisation of community policing there will be 5 permanent police dedicated to local policing in the area. This would allow greater resources to focus on local issues such as house breaking, anti-social behaviour and the sticky problem of dog poo!

## Home Security – ‘Keepsafe’ service from Royal Mail

Protecting your home and identity while you’re away

Keep your mail safe, even when you’re not at home. If you’re going away, don't advertise your absence with a pile of mail building up on the doormat. By holding onto your mail until you’re safely home, Keepsafe helps protect you against identity fraud.

Keepsafe is Royal Mail’s secure service which takes just 5 days to set up

- Royal Mail safely store your mail for up to 66 days until you return home
- Help prevent your mail falling into the wrong hands which can lead to identity fraud
- Royal Mail will deliver your letters and parcels after you return home
- Apply online in minutes <http://www.royalmail.com/personal/receiving-mail/keepsafe> or ask at your nearest Post Office.

## Bogus Doorstep Collections - The Sick Kids Friends Foundation

It has been reported to us from local residents that fraudsters are targeting homes in Currie pretending to collect clothes and toys for sick children. They have already managed to deceive families by claiming to be collecting for the Edinburgh-based Sick Kids Friends Foundation (SKFF). Bearing the charity's logo and fake email address, collection bags have been posted through letterboxes with the purpose of selling the items to make profit for themselves. SKFF officials issued a warning revealing that the collection bags had nothing to do with them.

If you received one of these bags through the post, please call SKFF office on 0131 668 4949 to report it. They are working with Trading Standards to get to the bottom of why this is happening and who is responsible for it.



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](mailto: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.