



April 2017 - No 29

# ***LOOK-OUT***

**Currie East Neighbourhood Watch**

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

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## *Message from the Chair*

*Neil Dickson*

With the signs and sounds of Spring upon us, longer daylight hours resulting in nature beginning to stir from its Winter slumbers. Birds chirp from dawn to dusk and early flowers of a new year beginning to bloom and that expectation of a warm Easter in April, showers or not!

For some residents, there may be the need for the seasonal purchase of Easter eggs as a gift for youngsters. For other residents of a more advanced age, the joy of receiving or giving wrapped up chocolate may well be a thing of the distant past, as contact with family members grows less and less each year.

So, if you are going to buy Easter eggs, with prices sometimes as low as £1 per item, pop an extra one in your shopping to give to a neighbour as an act of generosity and kindness. Not only may the neighbour feel good about receiving such an unexpected gesture but as a considerate neighbour you may also feel just as good in giving.

Such a gesture of giving without an expectation of a reciprocal act - doing it for no reason other than the right reason - has been referred to as the “helper’s high”. It’s the desire to perform good deeds, with the added benefit of feeling good about oneself. So, go on and buy an extra Easter egg. Being Kind is Cool!!!

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

## **Professional Trades People You Can Trust**

Trusted Trader is a local business partnership scheme, supported by City of Edinburgh Trading Standards service. The scheme is aimed at increasing consumer confidence, promoting good practice within local business, and helping protect citizens from doorstep crime.

You can search for reputable local businesses by visiting [www.trustedtrader.scot](http://www.trustedtrader.scot) or by calling 0131 513 9921.

Once your trusted trader has completed their work for you, reviews can be made online, or by completing a review form and dropping it in to your local library. If you are a local business looking to join Edinburgh Trusted Trader please visit the Trusted Trader website or telephone 0333 444 0195.

## **Vandalism**

Sadly, there have been some recent reports of vandalism of a number of cars in the CENW area, with damage to paintwork and tyres. If you have been the victim of any such incidents, please report the details to Police Scotland on 101, so that the issues can be fully investigated and the perpetrators apprehended. Should you see anyone in the act of vandalising any property, please immediately phone 999.

## **Sick of Nuisance Callers?**

Nuisance calls are a daily occurrence, causing stress to many and pushing vulnerable individuals to make poor decisions. For this reason, Trading Standards Scotland recommends that you consider a call-blocker.

It really does work. Trading Standards Scotland provided a call blocker to 541 older and vulnerable people and analysed the results to determine both the extent of nuisance phone calls and the effectiveness of call-blockers as a potential solution.

Many assume that being signed up for the Telephone Preference Service is enough but the study showed the top cold callers were simply ignoring this. The call-blockers were much more effective with the devices stopping 95% of the nuisance calls.

The effect of stopping these calls cannot be overstated. Study participants and their carers reported being able to live independently with reduced risk of financial harm, reduced anxiety for everyone involved, and even reduced risk of trips and falls from unnecessarily getting up to answer the phone.

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

## **National Counter Terrorism Awareness Campaign 2017**

“Make Nothing Happen” is the first public awareness campaign under the Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) banner. The key communication objectives for the campaign include:

1. Encouraging reporting of suspicious activity to the anti-Terrorist Hotline and reporting online terrorist and extreme material to the Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit.
2. Reinforcing the message that the public have a crucial role to play in remaining alert.
3. Tackling the terrorist threat; reassuring communities that the police and intelligence agencies are continually working hard to safeguard the vulnerable and keep people safe from terrorism.

Assistant Chief Constable Steve Johnson, who leads Police Scotland’s Organised Crime and Counter Terrorism unit, said:

"Police Scotland fully support the ‘Make Nothing Happen’ campaign. The public plays a crucial role in defeating terrorism and with their help we can work together to ‘Make Nothing Happen’. One of Scotland’s greatest strengths is its strong community cohesion, with cooperation between the public and the police being our greatest advantage against the terrorist threat. Communities defeat terrorism and by working together, we can stop terrorists and online extremists."

"Police Scotland continues to work tirelessly with security partners to identify and disrupt the terrorist threat. We must all ensure that the threat posed by terrorists does not undermine the positive relationships that exist across communities in Scotland. Communities should continue to remain vigilant, but not alarmed, and go about their daily business as usual."

Any suspicious activity should be reported to the

**Anti-Terrorist Hotline 0800 789 321**  
**Police Scotland via 101 / 999 in an emergency**  
**Police Scotland website [www.scotland.police.uk](http://www.scotland.police.uk)**

## **Annual Subscriptions**

Subscriptions are now due and have been maintained at £ 1 per household. It is hoped that you feel this modest amount offers good value for money in respect of the activities undertaken by CENW on your behalf.

## CENW Social Media

We are happy to introduce our new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/currieeastneighbourhoodwatch/> to get the CENW community communicating, and sharing useful knowledge.

This is in addition to our current website <http://www.cenw.org.uk/> where you can sign up for alerts of any criminal or Police activity in the area <http://www.cenw.org.uk/subscribe.php>

The website also has details of CENW meetings and AGM, if you would like to get involved directly.



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.