

LOOK-OUT

Muirwood Neighbourhood Watch
Incorporating Thomson & Easter Currie Watches

Police Message Broadcasting

This enables the police to send out messages to let us know what is going on in our local area. You can register to receive the latest updates, messages and security alerts affecting you, your business or family via e-mail, SMS text or voice messaging to your home telephone number. The kind of information that will be sent out will include the latest news on crime and policing and localised crime alerts and crime reduction advice in the areas of your interest.

To receive messages is completely free. To register you can go to www.police.uk, click on “Police Message Broadcast – Register Here” and fill out the form. When you register you will be asked for information about yourself. Any personal information entered by you is used exclusively by the police service for the sole purpose of providing you with information or services described on the police.UK site. They do not pass personal information on to any third parties, outside organisations or individuals except with your express consent.

Did You Know?

Over a quarter of all recorded crimes are car thefts or thefts from cars. It's a problem that affects us all no matter where we live. It diverts much police time and can have serious and sometimes fatal consequences. We should all be doing everything we can to make it more difficult for the thief.

POLICE TELEPHONE NUMBER

Balerno Police Station 449-5991

Police News Update - April to June, 2006

Vandalism

- 01/04 Forthview Road - Female charged with smashing a house window.
01/04 Pentland Medical Centre - Window smashed.
02/04 Pentland Medical Centre - Windows smashed: 3 youths ran from scene.
09/04 Forthview Crescent - House window smashed.
13/04 Forthview Avenue - afternoon - garden chair set on fire.
16/04 Weaversknowe Crescent - early - wing mirror on Volvo car broken.
21/04 Pentland View - Mirrors of Ford car broken off.
21/04 **Currie Prim. Sch.** - 4 windows smashed over weekend.
21/04 **Lanark Road West** - 3 coping stones pushed off garden wall.
05/05 **Currie Prim. Sch.** - 7 identified youths broke in and smashed windows
07/05 **Muir Wood Road** - House window smashed.
07/05 Pentland View - House window broken: occupier racially abused.
07/05 **Muir Wood Road** - Peugeot car window smashed.
08/05 Pentland View - Ford car damaged.
13/05 to 16/05 - **Muir Wood Crescent** - Windscreen of Honda car smashed.
15/05 **Muir Wood Road** - Renault car (see under car theft, 13/05) set on fire.
16/05 **Corslet Crescent** - House window smashed.
28/05 Pentland Avenue - Glass door panel smashed.
31/05 **Lanark Road West** - Rear window smashed on Renault car.
02/06 to 05/06 **Currie Prim. Sch.** - Library window smashed.
03/06 Forthview Crescent - Windows smashed in 2 houses: 2 youths charged.
04/06 **Weavers Knowe Crescent** - Garden furniture and window damaged.
06/06 Forthview Road - House window smashed: youth charged.
16/06 **Currie Prim. Sch.** - Library window smashed.
18/06 **Weavers Knowe Crescent** - Side gate of house damaged.

Break-ins

- 03/04 **Bryce Road** - Hair-Tech - Front door forced: cash stolen.
07/04 **Currie Prim. Sch.** - between 7th & 12th - nothing stolen.
13/04 Kirkgate - afternoon - House window forced - nothing stolen.
18/04 **Lanark Road West** - Mark McGill - rear door forced - cash from charity collection tins and a quantity of meat stolen.
09/05 West. Kinleith Farm Cott. - House entered and cash stolen.
12/05 **Currie Prim. Sch.** - Attempted break-in: 6 youths identified.
18/05 **Muir Wood Road** - Attempted break-in through ground floor window.
09/06 to 12/06 Kirkgate - Garage window smashed: attempt to open door.

14/06 **Weaversknowe Crescent** - Garage door forced: red Kawasaki mini motorbike stolen. 2 white males 17-20 years seen: one wearing light coloured tracksuit, the other a dark jumper.

16/06 **Palmer Place** - Green Peugeot car entered: 5 youths seen: no good descriptions.

18/06 **Nether Currie Road** - House entered: property stolen: man charged.

Miscellaneous

07/04 Morning: Male failed breath test: charged - drunk in charge of motor.

18/05 **Palmer Road** - Male, white, 15-16, wearing black t-shirt was seen in suspicious circumstances in garden of house.

28/05 **Riccarton Garden Centre** - Early - Fire-raising and malicious damage. Later, youths caused further damage and were charged with all the damage to the Centre. One also reported for possession of drugs.

27/06 **Pentland View Court** - 2 male youths charged with possession of offensive weapons.

30/06 **Ricc. Garden Centre** - 2 youths caught within Centre and charged.

Assault

24/04 **Currie Prim. Sch.** - within the grounds, a 10-year-old was assaulted by a named 14-year-old. Enquiries are continuing.

26/05 **Corslet Place** - Male charged with assault within Alldays.

Theft

06/05 **Muir Wood Road** - Rear number plate stolen from caravan.

13/05 **Muir Wood Road** - Attempted theft of Renault car by male, white, in black baseball cap, t-shirt and jeans and training shoes.

27/05 **Riccarton Avenue** - Trampoline stolen from garden: youths charged.

In the June newsletter the Police reported that ongoing enquiries relating to some of the items reported in May had resulted in a number of youths being charged in relation to a break-in to Currie Primary School and to acts of vandalism in the Currie area.

The Police have reported that intelligence shows that a male and female are involved in mail order fraud in our area. Their method is to obtain details of a householder and order goods from Littlewoods catalogue using that name and address. The following day they call at the house claiming they have a similar name and address and understand that their parcel has been misdirected. They arrange to uplift it. The fraud comes to light only when the resident receives a demand for payment. Should you receive any unsolicited parcels, please call Balerno Police station where Sergeant Catlin is investigating the matter.

Summary of Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 2nd May, 2006

David Eatock in the Chair. 23 in attendance. 5 apologies were received.

Welcome: David welcomed all to the meeting, made introductions and outlined the duties (up to 10 hours per year) of members of the Committee the scope of which covers security, crime reduction and awareness of issues within the Watch area such as roads, pavements and planning issues.

Secretary: Ian Proudfoot was volunteer Secretary for the meeting.

Minutes: Minutes of meeting of 6th February were agreed as presented.

Matters Arising: Gordon reported on a meeting with members of the other two Watches and on subsequent responses. David had again been in contact with the Police who did not want any of the Watches to lapse and who no longer view a Watch of 1300 members as being too large. No problems were envisaged in the production of a Newsletter for 1300 but it would be necessary for all three Watches to be represented. Duncan Law to provide articles and to speak to David Oxenham. A general discussion followed and the view from the floor was that small Committees would not be efficient and that a single Committee to cover all three Watches was a better option. The names of four members of Easter Currie and five of Thomson were put forward as potential members of an overall Committee. L Blackburn would continue to act as Treasurer for both Easter Currie and Thomson Watches. Gordon Laing would approach potential members for the enlarged Committee.

Traffic Forum: As Forum and Watch have items of mutual interest, Gordon McFadzean volunteered to be the Watch's observer on the Forum.

Crime Prevention Panel: The Panel is being split to reflect the policing areas and Watch volunteers are required. Chairmen of the Watches covered by Balerno Police Station are to attend a meeting with the Police.

Road Humps Meeting: No consultation: just an exhibition. Comments allowed but everything seems decided and no amendments to be made. Consensus of the meeting was that too many humps were being planned for the streets.

Muir Wood Road Pavements: Work cannot be completed until Scottish Power reposition lights. They will not do this until outstanding bills have been paid.

Bryce Road Pavement: Steel plate at junction with Lanark Road West still to be removed. Utility Company concerned to be contacted.

Bogus Seller: Has been active claiming to be from Tenovus. Beware!

Personal Alarms: David wished to know if all those wishing an alarm had received one. More may need to be ordered. Brian Latto dealing with this.

State of Roads: Further contact to be made with Council on this matter.

Kinleith Mill: Is being used as a dumping ground. Letter to be sent to Council.

Jet Petrol Station: No further progress.

Next Meeting: Monday 4th September, 2006 at 7.30pm in Kirk House

Personal Safety:

Below is an extract from a booklet issued by the Scottish Executive:

At Home:

- Make sure that your house or flat is secure. Always secure outside doors. If you have to use a key, keep it nearby – you may need to get out quickly in the event of fire
- If other people such as previous tenants could still have keys that fit, change the locks. Don't give keys to workmen or tradesmen, as they can easily make copies.
- Draw your curtains after dark and if you think there is a prowler outside – dial 999
- Use only your surname and initials in the telephone directory; on the doorplate, and, if you have one, beside an entry system button. That way a stranger won't know whether a man or a woman lives there.
- If you see signs of a break-in at your home, like a smashed window or open door, don't go in. The burglar may be inside. Go to a neighbour and call the police. Keep an eye on the property until the Police arrive and give as full a description as is possible of anyone coming out.
- If you are selling your home, don't show people round on your own. Ask your estate agent to send a representative with any viewers. Only employ professional accredited estate agents, removers and other trades people. Take care to whom you pass your keys.
- When you answer the phone simply say "hello": don't give your number. If the caller claims to have wrong number, ask him or her to repeat the number required. Never reveal any information about yourself to a stranger and never say you are alone in the house.
- If you receive an abusive or threatening phone call, put the receiver down beside the telephone and walk away. Don't say anything – an emotional reaction is just what the caller wants. If the calls continue, tell the Police and keep a record of the date, time and content of each phone call.

Keeping your children safe:

A playground bully, an adult Stranger, even a familiar grown-up, can represent a threat to a child – physically or sexually. Many children are now being taught how to stay safe, often through special lessons at school. This is what KIDSCAPE charity suggests parents should teach their children:

- **To be safe** – Tell your children that they have a right to be safe.
- **To protect their own bodies** – Children must know that their body belongs to them.
- **To say no** – Tell your children it's alright to say 'no' if someone tries to hurt them.
- **To get help against bullies** – Tell children to get friends to help them, and to say 'no' without fighting.
- **To tell** – Tell your children they must always tell you what has happened and that you will not be angry with them.
- **To be believed** – If your child wants your help, they need to know they will be believed and supported.
- **Not to keep secrets** – Tell your child that some secrets should never be kept, even if they said they wouldn't tell, especially in molestation cases.
- **To refuse touches** – Tell your child that they can say 'no' to touching or kissing if they don't like it. Never force your child to hug or kiss anyone.
- **Not to speak to strangers** – Tell your child never to talk to strangers and to ignore politely any approach by a stranger. Get them to tell you if a stranger tries to talk to them.
- **To break rules** – Tell your child they can break rules to stay safe. They can run away, scream, lie or kick to get away from danger.

Break-ins

Most break-ins happen when a house is empty. Don't advertise your absence when you are on holiday, out at work or shopping. Most are committed by opportunistic thieves and in two break-ins out of ten the thief does not have to force his way in because a door or a window has been left open. Thieves like easy opportunities. They don't like locked windows because breaking glass attracts attention. They don't like security deadlocks on doors because they cannot open them even from the inside and have to get out through a window. Simple precautions like these do work. So check the security of your home and strengthen the weak spots as soon as possible. A small outlay will, in many cases, make your home more secure – and buy peace of mind into the bargain.

Going away for a few days?

The sad fact is that almost half of all burglaries occur when the home is left empty in the Summer months and in the run-up to Christmas. By following a few tips you can help to make your home more secure and have a more relaxing holiday. Check off these items before you leave your house empty:

- Make your home look “lived in”. Curtains closed during the day make the house look empty. Get neighbours’ help.
- Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries.
- Don’t discuss holiday plans where strangers may hear.
- Cut the lawn and tidy the garden.
- Have timer switches to turn lights on when it gets dark.
- Use Royal Mail’s “Keep Safe” service to avoid mail build-up.
- Leave very important documents with Family or bank or lock them in a safe secured to the fabric of the building.
- Put your destination, not your home address, on the outside of your luggage.
- Consider putting cycles and tools from the shed into the house.
- Have your alarm system serviced and update the keyholders register. Make sure it is set and that all outside doors and windows are locked.

General Security

- All external doors should be fitted with Kite Marked BS 3621 locks or quality multi-point locking systems.
- Fit locks to all downstairs or accessible windows.
- Fit extra locks and an anti-lift bar to patio doors.
- Mark valuable items with your post code and house number and don’t leave them on display. Photos, receipts and serial numbers help both the Police and your insurance company so leave a list with friends or family.
- Make sure your Contents and Buildings Insurance is valid.
- Make it difficult for anyone to reach the rear of your property: lock gates and fit security lighting.
- Move bins from under windows.
- If leaving your car at home, park it on the drive against your garage door. Leave the keys in a secure place.
- Lock garages and sheds with security locks and chain up ladders.
- If away for a long period, consider turning off gas, electricity and water.
- Leave emergency contact details with a neighbour or key holder.

Now you should be better able to relax and enjoy your holiday.

You can find more detailed crime prevention advice at www.crimereduction.gov.uk

Information from Edinburgh Council

Muir Wood Road – Footway Reconstruction – The delay in completing the first phase of the footway reconstruction scheme occurred as a result of a Scottish Power embargo on effecting electrical works for the Council due to a billing dispute.

Nether Currie Crescent and Area – Future Works – The Council are aware of the condition of the footways and carriageways in Nether Currie Crescent and other areas. Unfortunately the Department has only a limited budget available for resurfacing measures and the number of locations requiring resurfacing work are greater than the current resources can attend to. Although the roads and footways in the area did not qualify for attention in this year's programme, they will be considered for a future works programme.

Riccarton Mains Road – Proposed Change in Speed Limit – The Department is in the process of promoting a Traffic Regulation Order to reduce the speed limit from **60mph** to **40mph** in Riccarton Mains Road between the entrance to Currie and Heriot Watt University. Provided no objections are received when the proposal is advertised the new speed limit order should be in place by the end of 2006. **Your Committee supports this reduction and would urge all residents to do the same.**

Look-out

Articles for inclusion in the Newsletter are welcomed. Copy for the next issue should be sent, as soon as possible, to the Editor at 31 Nether Currie Road, EH14 5HX (449-5566) or by e-mail to:
jimherbert@blueyonder.co.uk

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The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the views held by the Editor or the Muirwood Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Neighbourhood Watch will be held on

WEDNESDAY, 1st NOVEMBER, 2006

at 7.30 pm in Nether Currie Primary School

This will be a most important meeting for the Watch as final decisions will have to be made regarding the future management of the three “old” Watches.

The loose amalgamation of the three Watches has given time for consultation and, since no objections to a more permanent consolidation have been put forward, it is now necessary to make decisions as to our long-term future. The AGM will have to decide on our direction and approve a new Constitution for the combined Watches.

The enlarged management committee seems to have have been working well. Some of the more pedestrian decisions to be made include agreeing on a new name for the Watch and for our newsletter. All suggestions will be welcomed.

Please! Please!! Please!!! Do try to attend.

As usual, refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Editor's Apology

The accompanying newsletter, labelled “Summer, 2006”, should have been sent out some weeks ago. Due to problems outwith the control of the Watch, its publication has been delayed until now. The next issue, with the above notice of the AGM, was due for distribution at the beginning of October. In view of the delay, it will not be worthwhile to create an Autumn newsletter so the next issue will be the Winter one.

My sincere apologies.