



# February 2012

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Newsletter

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

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### **PUBLIC MEETING & SOCIAL EVENT**

**Sunday 11 March 2012**

**2.00pm Polwarth Parish Church Hall**

## ***Scams...***

**...doorstep, telephone, text, e-mail & internet**

There seems no end to the ingenuity and brazenness of criminals – we must be constantly on our guard.

Come along to hear about examples of recent scams and get advice on what sort of precautions we should take from our guest speaker

**Sgt. Steven Duncan of Lothian and Borders Police**

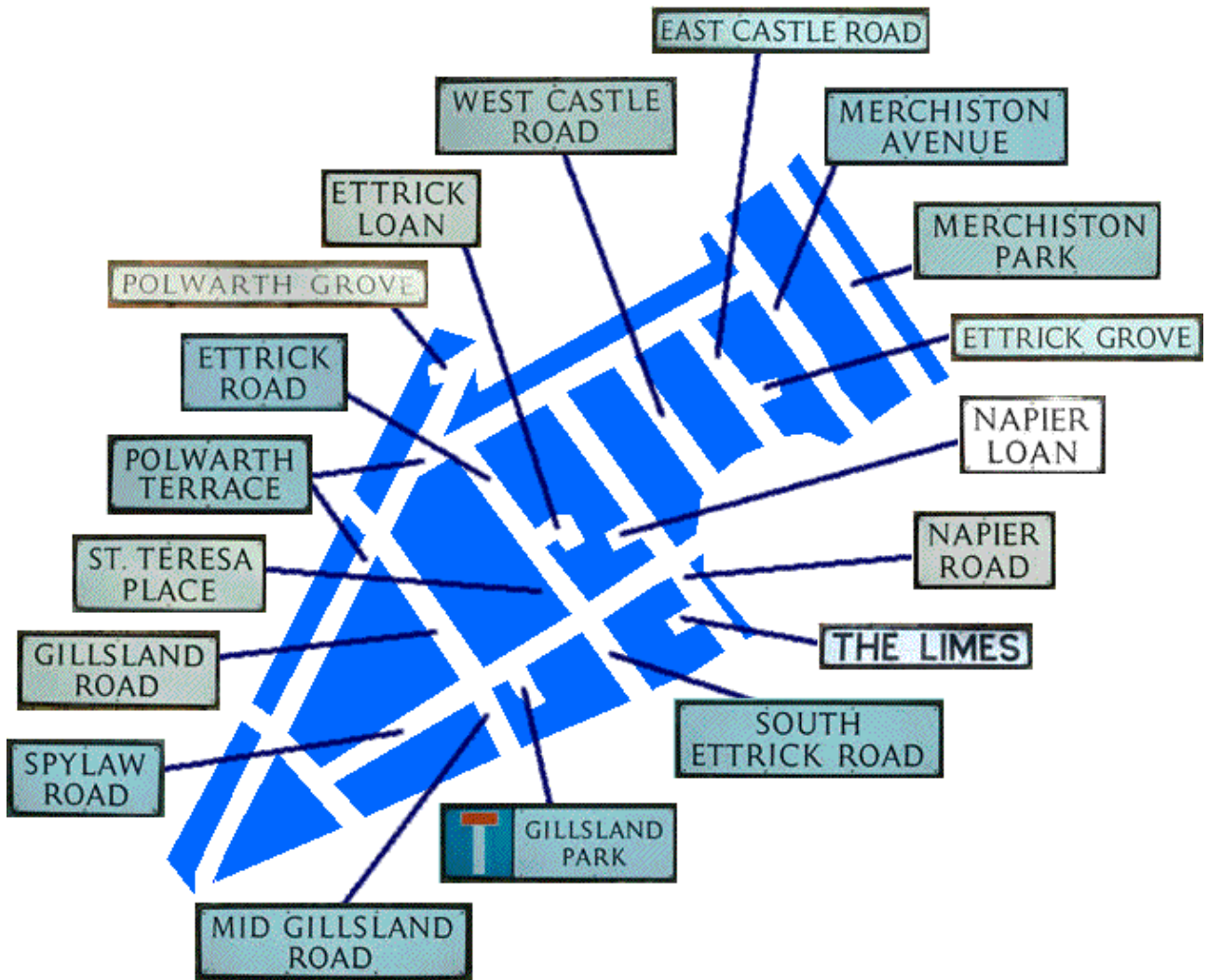
*(i/c the "Safer Neighbourhood Police Team" covering our area)*

Refreshments at 'half-time'

Please come along and meet your neighbours informally over a cuppa.

**All local residents welcome!**

## Our Neighbourhood Watch area



**We are members of** the National Association of Scottish Neighbourhood Watches, further details of which can be found at [www.aosnw.co.uk](http://www.aosnw.co.uk)

Our website contains lots of Local Information about our neighbourhood, including the history behind many of the above street names. Simply visit [www.NeighbourWatch.org.uk](http://www.NeighbourWatch.org.uk) and click on **Local Info**.

### Email Communication

There are significant advantages from the quick provision of information to you and efficiency for us if we do have your e-mail address (**which will not be shared with anyone else**):

- you will receive notice of news bulletins and police and incident reports for the area, along with short adverts for local events that bring the neighbourhood together, **immediately they are available**;
- we save on the costs of printing and paper, and on the physical demands of pavement delivery.



However, we only have e-mail addresses for 148 homes in the area, and these are listed below:

East Castle Road	6
Ettrick Loan	1/4, 4, 8
Ettrick Road	1, 4, 4A, 6, 6A, 7, 8, 9B, 9C, 9D, 10, 10/2, 10/3, 11B, 11C
Gillsland Road	1, 2, 2A, 2C, 2D, 2E, 2J, 2K, 3, 3B, 3C, 4/7, 6/1, 17/1, 17/2, 17/3, 17/5, 17/6, 17/9, 17/10
Merchiston Avenue	5C, 8, 8A, 9, 10, 10A, 13, 15, 19B, 27, 29, 32/5, 33, 35, 35A, 38
Merchiston Crescent	12D, 14B, 14C, 18, 51
Merchiston Park	9C/1, 9C/2, 18A, 18B, 19, 22, 31
Mid Gillsland Road	3, 5
Napier Loan	2, 3, 4, 5
Napier Road	1/1,1/2, 1C, 2, 6, 7, 8, 8A, 9A, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 28
Polwarth Grove	5, 6
Polwarth Terrace	1, 2, 8, 10, 14A, 16, 19, 24B/5, 26B/6, 27, 30, 44, 44A, 46A, 70, 80, 84, 86, 94A, 96A, 97/4, 100, 100A
Spylaw Road	2B, 4/10, 11, 25, 31/1, 33, 38, 40, 44/1, 49/1, 49/2, 49/4, 50/3, 56, 56/10, 68
St Teresa Place	1/2, 1/6, 2/1, 2/2
The Limes, Napier Road	3, 12, 16, 17
West Castle Road	2A, 3, 4, 13, 16

There must be many more residents in the area who have internet access but whose e-mail addresses we do not yet have and to whom we are therefore unable to distribute information electronically.

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**Please do register if you have not already done so, by visiting our website ([www.NeighbourWatch.org.uk](http://www.NeighbourWatch.org.uk)) and clicking on the word **Contact****

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This takes you to a very short online registration form. You can be assured that your contact details will **not** be shared with any other individual, group or organisation at any time.

Communication is two-way! Please use the web site or speak to your street coordinator to pass on any suggestions you have to the Neighbourhood Watch Committee. You can use the Contact page on the website for this.

Over the past 12 months, our website has continued to share relevant information including Police Reports and Incidents, and Breaking News Bulletins.

## **Immobilise – The UK National Property Register**

Visit **[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)** to create a FREE private and secure portfolio of all your personal property.

If your phone, bike, computer or any other registered item is lost or stolen, you can use Immobilise to instantly tell police, insurers, and the second-hand trade. These actions help greatly in the recovery of your property and the capture of thieves.

Registering items also simplifies insurance claims and Police reports with certificates of ownership.

## **Police Reports and Breaking News**

Police Reports are now coming again on a monthly and are immediately posted on our website (**[www.NeighbourWatch.org.uk](http://www.NeighbourWatch.org.uk)**). You can access them by registering your details via the website and requesting a short e-mail alerting you to when a new report is available for download.



The **Breaking News** section has proved to be a very useful forum for the prompt e-mail circulation of warnings of incidents of crime and of local information.

Over the last 12 months, we have received and posted many Crime Alerts and Reports on our website, and given notice by e-mail where we could. Among them:

- Significant theft from a **briefly** unattended open car boot in an open garage while the car was being loaded;
- unannounced doorstep calling by a variety of dubious/suspicious characters:
  - a suspicious 'charity' clothing collection
  - two 'salesmen' purporting to be from a charity called 'Done and Dusted' (the 'done' bit seems the more plausible)
  - bogus service engineers claiming to be from Dyson, which never does cold calling
  - a suspicious individual purporting to be looking for clothes for recycling;
- burglaries in Polwarth Terrace and Spylaw Road;
- the mugging of an elderly lady at Tesco, Meggetland – for which two men were quickly apprehended.

It is in all our interests that information on this kind of activity gets around quickly.

***If you see anything at all that you think is suspicious:***

**DO PLEASE REPORT IT TO THE POLICE.**

## **Police contact details**



Telephone St Leonard's Police Station, which covers our area, on **0131 662 5000**

Crimestoppers - **0800 555 111** - is the number to ring if you want to talk confidentially about your suspicions of a particular crime or a particular individual.

Or call or e-mail one our two Safer Neighbourhood Officers:

PC Alan Hopper: **0131 662 5022** e-mail **alan.hopper@lbp.pnn.police.uk**

PC Vikki Shaw: **0131 662 5022** e-mail **victoria.shaw@lbp.pnn.police.uk**

For serious emergencies dial **999**.

We still have, for sale at cost price, some small items relating to personal and home security, such as **Personal Attack Alarms** (£4), **Shed Alarms** (£10) etc. **These will be available for purchase at the Public Meeting.** Neighbourhood Watch window stickers are available **free of charge**.



You are reminded that there are several other free of charge services available to you as an Edinburgh resident to help prevent crime and fire damage.

To find out more, visit **[www.NeighbourWatch.org.uk](http://www.NeighbourWatch.org.uk)** and click on **Freebies**.

Street Co-ordinators can supply and collect *Emergency Contact Forms*, which are a means (entirely voluntary and confidential) of providing details of any relatives/lawyer/other contact who you would like to be informed in the event of an emergency and/or who holds keys to your property. Completed forms are passed on to the police to assist in case of emergencies – the information is not shared with any other individuals or organisations. Ask your Street Coordinator if you would like a form, or they can be obtained from our website in either **Word** or **Adobe PDF** form.

## **Merchiston Community Council**

'Speaking up for the People of Merchiston' is the motto of Merchiston Community Council (MCC), under whose auspices our Neighbourhood Watch was established.

MCC is a group of around 21 local residents, all volunteers, whose statutory responsibility is to ascertain, reflect and represent the views of the people living in our area on a wide range of topics, such as planning, licensing, anti-social behaviour, parks maintenance, recycling, pavement repairs and parking, to name but a few.

We do what we can to get any problems resolved by the relevant authorities. We are statutory consultees on planning applications and sit on a number of City of Edinburgh Council committees

All MCC meetings are open to the public. Details of future meetings and other useful information can be found at [www.merchistoncc.org.uk](http://www.merchistoncc.org.uk). Dates and venues for meetings in the near future are already known to be:

Tue 21 February 2012	St Michael's Parish Church, Slateford Road
Tue 20 March 2012	Polwarth Parish Church, Polwarth Terrace
Tue 15 May 2012	Eric Liddell Centre, Holy Corner – AGM

## **And Finally**

Our Neighbourhood Watch group receives no public funding. We are again extremely grateful to local Estate Agents **Hunters Residential** (part of **Gillespie Macandrew LLP Solicitors**) for covering the cost of printing our Newsletter, and to **George Watson's College** where it was printed.

Thanks to you all for your feedback and support. We look forward to seeing you **at the meeting on Sunday 11 March 2012.**

Yours faithfully,

***Nisbet Gallacher***

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and Chair.  
e-mail: [nisbet@neighbourwatch.org.uk](mailto:nisbet@neighbourwatch.org.uk)

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### ***A Word from our Sponsor***



"At Hunters we know moving house is a big deal. We're here to help you every step of the way; our experience is our greatest asset. We have unrivalled local knowledge of the property market and guarantee a friendly and professional service. Contact us at 76-80 Morningside Road. Tel 0131 447 4747 or visit our website [www.huntersresidential.co.uk](http://www.huntersresidential.co.uk)"

## Other Local Events During March 2012

# Polwarth Nearly New Sale

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



Saturday 17th March 2012, 11am-1pm

Polwarth Church  
Polwarth Terrace, Edinburgh EH11 1LU

All ages of Children's Clothes & Toys,  
Nursery Equipment, Maternity Wear,  
High Chairs, Buggies, Pushchairs,  
Garden Toys ... and much more!

Over 5000 items for sale.



Raising money for  
Polwarth Church and  
Hopscotch Children's Charity



Donations of Items to Sell are most welcome

[donations@nearlynewsale.org.uk](mailto:donations@nearlynewsale.org.uk)

Full Sale Details at

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

Polwarth Nearly New Sales have been taking place since 2005 to raise money for charity and to recycle quality children's items.  
Church of Scotland Reference 030115. Registered Scottish Charity SC004183.  
The vision of the Church of Scotland is to be a church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond  
with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing and serving communities.



## Local Food Fair

Saturday 24th March 2012

11am to 2pm

Polwarth Church Hall

- free entry -

- cafe and BBQ
- fresh local produce for sale – including vegetables, eggs, bread and cakes, meat and preserves.
- cookery tips and tastes
- children's activities
- information stalls
- competitions and prizes

building community through food [www.shandonfood.org.uk](http://www.shandonfood.org.uk)