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April 2025 Community Ward Newsletter

Introduction

Welcome to April's Cupar Ward Community Council Newsletter from your local officers, PC Lee Smith, PC Duncan Shand and Sgt Nicola Gillespie.

Local News, Priorities and Useful Information

Road Safety



Safer Communities, Fife Council, have set new dates for the coming year for the Drivewise 65+ initiative. This initiative is aimed at drivers 65+ years of age who would like to gain more confidence behind the wheel so that they can continue to drive safer for longer.

The course runs for 1 ½ hours and constitutes the driver driving their own car for about 20 minutes observed by a Road Policing Officer. This drive will cover different road layouts, different speed limits, junctions and roundabouts. The Officer will observe the drive and then chat to the driver about things they are doing well and things they can improve on to stay safe.

The session will be broken down to the following:

15 Mins – Registration, Checks and Pre-Evaluation

60 Mins – Observation Drive, Discussion Time, Opportunity to observe Police Officer driving shorter route

15 Mins – Post-Evaluation and Merchandise

The sessions planned for this year are

Thursday 29th May – Kirkcaldy Ford Centre, and

Wednesday 25th June – St Andrews Fire Station

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With time slots being from 0845 to 1015hrs, 0945 to 1115hrs, 1045 to 1215hrs, 1245 to 1415hrs and 1345 to 1515hrs.

Requirements

All drivers must bring their own car. This car must have a current MOT and driver must have a current licence. All details will be checked before the observation drive. A standard driving eyesight test will also be carried out.

There is no cost to sign up for this project as it is a free initiative. Drivers will be asked to use their own car for the observation drive and the route will be around 10-15 miles.

To register your interest please contact safercommunities.projectofficers@fife.gov.uk for a registration form.



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The community officers have also been out in our ward area with Pop up Bob deployments. These areas have been highlighted to the community team by residents of the area of concern. If you have concerns regarding speeding then contact the community team through the email provided. Pop up Bob is for use by the entire ward area, and shall be deployed on a shared basis.

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In this month's awareness information we have details regarding Doorstep crimes and Bogus callers.

What is doorstep crime?

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From bogus callers to rogue traders, doorstep criminals are cunning, creative, and convincing.

Anyone can be fooled as these people are professional con artists. The over 60s are targeted the most.

What types of doorstep criminals are there?

There are two main types:

Bogus callers try to get into your home or get personal details by pretending to be someone they're not.

This can include council staff, charity collectors, meter readers and police officers. In reality, they are criminals trying to steal money and valuables.

Rogue traders usually cold-call. They claim to be workers offering services, make repairs or carry out work on your property. In reality they charge inflated prices for shoddy or work that isn't needed.

We do not recommend dealing with cold-callers.

How can I spot a rogue trader?

They tell you the work needs to be done immediately.

They will ask to be paid there and then. They may offer to go to the bank with you if you don't have the cash at hand.

How can I protect myself from doorstep crime?

Here are some tips to follow to protect yourself.

- Be on guard if someone turns up unexpectedly
- Keep front and back doors locked
- Use the door viewer or nearby window when answering the door

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- Fit a door chain or bar – use it and keep it on when talking to callers at the door
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door
- Don't feel embarrassed - genuine callers expect you to be careful
- Only let callers in if they have an appointment - confirm they are genuine
- Always ask for identification badges, but don't rely on them
- Identity cards can be faked – phone the company to verify their identity
- Some companies offer a password system - ask if this can be used
- If you have a password with a company, make sure the caller uses it
- Never let people persuade you to let them into your home – they may not be genuine.
- If someone is persistent, ask them to call at another time and get a friend or family member to be with you
- Never agree to pay for goods or give money to strangers who arrive at your door
- Don't keep large amounts of money in your home
- Remember, it's your home, there's no reason why anyone should ever enter your home against your wishes
- If you're not sure, don't answer the door.

What else can I do to stop being defrauded by a rogue trader?

Trading Standards advice is:

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- Don't feel pressurised into agreeing to immediate work or buying a product or service
- Don't agree to buy from the first person who calls
- Don't pay cash up front. Don't offer to go and get money
- Shop around if you decide you need work done
- Ask what your cancellation rights are
- Report them.

BEAT DOORSTEP CRIME

Think

Expecting someone?
Only let callers
in if they have
an appointment.

Secure

Use your door chain
/ spy-hole before
opening the door.

Question

Ask for callers I.D.
Verify by phone.
But if in doubt,
keep them out.



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POLICING POWERS IN SCOTLAND – SELDOM HEARD COMMUNITIES

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Police Scotland has been working with partner agencies to identify ways of improving communication and building trust between the police and minority ethnic communities in Scotland.

Research found that some communities were unsure of how to contact the police and didn't have a clear understanding of policing powers in Scotland.

To address these concerns, Police Scotland have co-designed and developed a series of videos which breakdown a police officer's role and how to contact the police, translated into the main languages spoken by Scotland's minority ethnic communities.

As part of the development of these videos, PCs Wallace and Cook from East Neuk and Landward Community

Policing Team, PC Smith from Cupar Policing Team, and PCs Doherty and Brown from St Andrews Community

Policing Team were involved in the filming process and feature throughout these videos.

Policing powers in Scotland <https://orlo.uk/TCDev>

How to contact the police <https://orlo.uk/YeQAZ>

Learn more about the research <https://orlo.uk/Eew5u>



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Help with housing, home energy and household bills

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service offers a **FREE** Home Fire Safety Visit. We will come to your home at a time that suits you to give advice, help spot fire hazards and cover what to do in the event of a fire. Smoke and heat detectors might be fitted as part of the visit depending on existing alarms and home ownership.

For more information on Home Fire Safety and how to arrange a visit just go to the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service website:

www.firescotland.gov.uk/your-safety/at-home/home-fire-safety-visit

No access to the internet? It's easy to arrange a visit by calling **0800 0731 999** or just Text **"FIRE"** to **80800** from your mobile phone.

Information on the New Alarm Standard, which came into effect in February 2022, can be found using the QR Code. Just open the camera on your phone and fit the QR code onto the screen. A link to the Scottish Government information will pop up. Alternatively, visit Fire and smoke alarms: changes to the law:



www.gov.scot/publications/fire-and-smoke-alarms-in-scottish-homes

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FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**
Working together for a safer Scotland

Contact us today to arrange a
FREE Home Fire Safety Visit
We'll help you spot possible fire hazards, sort out a fire escape plan and provide
information about smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms.
CALL 0800 0731 999, TEXT 'FIRE' TO 80800 or VISIT firescotland.gov.uk

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Useful numbers and sources of information

NHS 24: Call free on 111
Fife Women's Aid: 0808 802 5555

Universal Credit helpline: 0800 328 5644

Fife Council Out of hours helpline: 03451 55 00 99

Fife Housing Register Emergency Accommodation: 03451 55 00 33 (Mon-Fri 8am-6pm) or out of hours 0800 028 6231

Scottish Water: 0800 077 8778
SEPA Floodline: 0345 988 1188
SEPA Pollution: 0800 807060

Citizens Advice and Rights Fife: call 0345 1400 095 or visit www.cabfife.org.uk

Contact your local councillor: call 03451 555555 ext 442320 (24 hour surgery helpline) or visit www.fife.gov.uk

Cosy Kingdom: Telephone advice service for any energy billing or supplier issues. Also provide emergency top-ups for people who have run out of gas or electric and are struggling financially. Call 01592 807930 or email info@cosykingdom.org.uk.

Fife Gingerbread – Lone Parent Helpline: Support workers are available to give over the phone advice Monday to Thursday 9.00am—5.00pm and Friday 9.00am—3.30pm. Call 01592 725 210.

Age Scotland helpline: A free, confidential phone service for older people, their carers and families in Scotland. The team provide information, friendship and advice. Available Monday - Friday 9-5pm, call free on 0800 12 44 222.

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Free school meals: If your child is entitled to a free school meal then you should be registered to receive a payment of £11.50 per week. Apply through Fife Council here: www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/schools-in-fife/free-school-meals-and-school-clothing-grants

Young Scot: Young people can access lots of information and advice at: www.young.scot/campaigns/national/coronavirus

Support for mental health:

The NHS 24 Mental Health Hub is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on 111.

You can call the Samaritans 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, on 116 123.

Breathing Space is available for advice and support on 0800 83 85 87 Monday to Thursday 6pm-2am and Friday 6pm to Monday 6am. You can also [visit the Breathing Space website](#).

The Relationship Helpline (0808 802 2088) is a free support line providing a safe and confidential space for anyone struggling with their relationship. The Helpline is open from 9.00am to 9.00pm, Monday to Thursday, and 9.00am to 4.00pm on Friday.

Calls received.

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During April 2025, Police Scotland received:

North East Fife Area – **1170** calls

Cupar Ward area **162**– incidents, with **34** crime reports recorded.

Ceres & Craigrothie

16 calls received by police, covering concerns for persons, dishonesty, and road traffic matters

0 crime reports recorded.

Kemback, Pitscottie & Blebo Craigs

10 calls to the police, covering road traffic matters, drugs and concern for persons and weather.

0 crime reports recorded.

Dairsie

3 calls to the police, covering concern-for-person and road traffic matters

0 crime recorded:

Cupar

101 calls to the police, covering concern for person/missing person calls; road traffic matters/collisions; requests for assistance to members of the public; fraud, theft and vandalism reports and disturbances, weather related and animal concerns.

30 crimes recorded.

Cults & Pitlessie

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3 calls to the police, regarding weather and crime against a person

0 crimes recorded.

Springfield

29 calls to the police, covering road traffic matters; concern for person, requests for assistance/advice and disorder and weather.

4 crimes recorded.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Below is the local contact email address for your local community team.

This is not for reporting a crime but if you feel you require to contact your local community officer then our email address is the best way to do so.

If you do not have access to the internet, then you can call 101 and the call handler can send an email on your behalf.

Email us at: CuparCPT@Scotland.police.uk

Please Note, this email address is NOT for reporting a crime or ongoing incidents and due to our shift pattern, is not monitored 24/7.

Thank you!

PC Lee Smith P0588 and PC Duncan Shand P0248

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