



# Merton Watch

The Official Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter for Merton

ISSUE 13 2010

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Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is:



# Merton NHW Association launch Junior NHW...

Junior NHW in Merton is about to be launched, making Merton the first borough in London to start such a scheme

It was mentioned at the last Merton NHW Association AGM, as an exciting venture to pursue and to get the younger members of Merton involved.

Junior Neighbourhood Watch is a relatively new idea that is finding popularity in many areas in the UK. The scheme aims to engage with young people and encourage them to take an interest in what is happening in their neighbourhoods and to generate an interest and awareness in their personal safety, their community and crime and disorder issues.

It has been said that "crime can not thrive in a community that cares"; the scheme is to inspire young people to care.

Working with local schools, the scheme is aimed at young people aged 10 and older.

I am very pleased to announce that Junior Neighbourhood Watch will be launched on 30th September at St John Fisher School, Morden.

The scheme will last 4 weeks and will be delivered to year 5 students. If successful we hope to roll it out across the borough.

We are all very excited about the pilot, even more so as we believe this will be the first Junior NHW in London!

Some areas that will be covered during the scheme will be the role of the police, personal safety, crime prevention, anti-social behaviour, bullying, vandalism, drugs awareness, fire safety, road safety, racism, Neighbourhood Watch and use of 999 emergency number.

The scheme also makes young people aware of their personal safety by acquiring practical skills and knowledge to avoid placing themselves in dangerous situations.



In addition, they gain an understanding of the work of the police and Neighbourhood Watch, and become more aware of their own communities and what they can do to improve them. Upon completion of the training, each participating young person is given a certificate.

## Welcome to NHW

The Merton NHW Association are very pleased to welcome Wendy Young and Susan Nicholas to Neighbourhood Watch.

Both Wendy and Susan have kindly agreed to help out in the office and we can't thank them enough, especially as so far this year we have set up 80 new watches, this is already 20 more than the whole of last year, so their help with the crime figures and making up welcome packs is very much appreciated.

If you can spare some time and are interested in becoming a MET police volunteer in Merton please contact Sylvie Chrzanowska at [sylvie.chrzanowska@met.police.uk](mailto:sylvie.chrzanowska@met.police.uk) or call her on 020 8649 3079



## The Chair's corner

Welcome to our thirteenth edition of the "Merton Watch" Newsletter, which is full of useful information and tips on keeping safe.

On 21st April 2010, Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association held its 5th AGM at the Civic Centre, which turned out to be a great success with record numbers in attendance.

Existing and new co-ordinators were in attendance to hear from our special guests from the Police Dog handling unit.

It was great to see so many familiar faces as well as some new ones.

Since becoming Chair of NHW in Merton in 2006, our Association have been on a bit of a rollercoaster ride. The Association have all assisted in achieving the following:

**Continued to produce the Merton Watch Newsletter and increase publication to 30,000 households in Merton**

**Setup record number of NHW schemes, bringing the total of number of schemes in Merton to over 420.**

**Set up and attended a record number of NHW launch meetings, stretching us to the limit.**

**Launching our website for all of Merton NHW members to visit and find data that they require to assist them in running a successful NHW, the website to date has attracted over 19,000 hits, since its launch.**

I would like to thank the members of the MNHWA, Lee Roberts, the dedicated NHW coordinators and members, Merton Police and Safer Merton for all their efforts during 2009 making NHW in Merton what it is today.

In my view, 2009 will be a hard act to follow on from, but with all the coordinators and members support I'm sure it can be achieved.

**See you all at the next AGM**



## New patrol base opens in Merton

Graveney and Lavender Fields SNTeams opened their new patrol base in Wilson Avenue, Mitcham, in June this year.

The latest Merton Police patrol base was opened providing a new home for the Lavender Fields and Graveney Ward Safer Neighbourhoods teams.

The Mayor of Merton, Councillor Nick Draper, officially opened the base, with the Merton Borough Commander, Chief Superintendent Chris Bourlet. Other guests included Siobhain McDonagh MP for Mitcham and Morden, Deputy Council Leader Samantha George and residents of the local community.

Police officers and Police Community Support Officers are now permanently based in the new facility, identifying and tackling local issues of concerns with the neighbourhood.

The Wilson Avenue base houses the Graveney and Lavender Fields Safer Neighbourhood Teams, in a fully equipped facility. However, the public Front Office Facility remains at Mitcham Police Station.



## The One Stop Shop

The One Stop Shop is a confidential drop in service for people experiencing domestic abuse and violence in Merton.

It happens every Monday from 9:30am - 12:30pm (starting 13th September 2010) at the Morden Baptist Church, Crown Lane, Morden Surrey, SM4 5BL. For more information call 020 8685 1637

## Get your free car air freshener

Get your free car air freshener as part of an ongoing campaign to drive out vehicle crime in the Borough. Merton Police and Safer Merton are handing out free car air fresheners to motorists in the Borough with a crime prevention message written on it.

The message on the air freshener is clear - **STOP - All valuables have been removed** whilst on the other side the message reminding motorists to remove all valuables from view.

Merton Police Crime Reduction Advisor PC Greg HUNT said, "The Partnership is committed to keeping crime low by reducing vehicle crime. Theft from motor vehicles is on the increase and all too often the thief steals property left out on open display in the vehicle.

Taking a few seconds to remove any valuables from your vehicle may save you hundreds of pounds in repairing a broken window and replacing your valuables.

This runs alongside the vulnerable vehicle scheme already being run by your Safer Neighbourhood Teams. If officers out on patrol discover something of value left out on open display in a vehicle they will contact the registered keeper and warn them of the likelihood of returning to their vehicle and finding that property stolen.

This will either be in person at the time or by the Teams writing to the registered keeper if not local. This information may well be shared with insurance companies in the event of an insurance claim which may affect that claim"

The air fresheners are available free of charge to Merton residents and businesses by contacting your local Merton Safer Neighbourhood Team. If you would like to speak to your Safer Neighbourhood Team regarding vehicle crime or any other crime issue, please call 0300 123 1212 and ask for the appropriate ward, or visit our website [www.mertonnhw.co.uk](http://www.mertonnhw.co.uk) and click on ward contacts, and you will find the details there.



## Cannon Hill ward aiming for 100%

Cannon Hill ward are set to become the second ward in Merton to achieve 100% Neighbourhood Watch coverage.

The Cannon Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team, lead by Sergeant John Tibaldi have spent the last few months tirelessly knocking on doors promoting the benefits of joining a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

It seems that their efforts have paid off as residents volunteered in their dozens to co-ordinate schemes in their areas.

Sergeant John Tibaldi said: Cannon Hill is a low crime ward, however, Neighbourhood Watch will play a big part in keeping it that way. Neighbourhood Watch, when effective can reduce all manner of crimes as well as bringing about some community spirit in areas where it may have been lacking.

I would like to thank all those residents who have volunteered as co-ordinators, myself and the Cannon Hill team look forward to working with them to help keep Cannon Hill a safe ward"

The Cannon Hill Safer Neighbourhoods team will now work with residents in the remaining roads to set up the last schemes.

The first ward in Merton to achieve 100% coverage, Lower Morden, borders with Cannon Hill Ward.

## Trick or Treat

The Halloween and firework season is a busy time for Safer Merton who since 2007 have seen a steady decline in the number of incidents.

The Safer Merton Partnership, which includes the police and fire brigade are taking a number of actions to further decrease the number of Anti Social Behaviour incidents over Halloween and Fireworks, such as providing extra police patrols in hot spot areas, patrolling the most popular transport routes to fireworks displays, working with local shops to ask them not to sell flour and eggs to under 16's and delivering London Fire Brigade firework safety messages to schools.

If you would like to discourage trick or treaters, you may wish to display a "NO TRICK OR TREAT" poster which is available to download at our website [www.mertonnhw.co.uk](http://www.mertonnhw.co.uk)

# Focus on Crime

Merton is divided into three police areas, Wimbledon, Mitcham and Morden, supported by Safer Merton. Here, Merton NHW Association offers advice on reporting crime in an emergency and a non-emergency

## When do I use 999 or 0300 123 1212?

To help maintain an effective emergency response in 999 calls, the Metropolitan Police Service is reminding Merton residents to use the non-emergency number if they need to contact the police when the matter is not urgent.

Although approximately 90% of 999 calls received by the Met Police are answered within ten seconds, they want to make sure that they can respond to calls from people in genuine emergencies much more quickly and safely.

Merton's diverse communities can access their services, including their language services for people to contact them even if they speak no or little English, while a text-phone service is available for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

In an emergency people should always dial **999**. An emergency is when a crime is happening, someone suspected of a crime is known to be nearby, or someone is injured, being threatened or in danger.

For all other calls to the Met Police people should dial **0300 123 1212**, such as when reporting a crime or a non-urgent incident, to speak to local police or when seeking advice on police matters.

It is still possible to contact local police stations with pre-existing numbers and in particular Safer Neighbourhood Teams should still be contacted using their direct telephone numbers.

However people can use **0300 123 1212** to speak to local police, including SN Teams, as well as other MPS teams.

The MPS introduced this number to make it easier for people to contact them, while giving them greater access to other services.

Whether it's an emergency or not your call will be received by a highly trained police officer or staff member at one of the three centres of the Met's Central Communications Command (CCC).

**Here are a few tips on what to look for should you require 999:**

**Question:** You are walking down your street, when you see someone behaving in a strange manner looking in all the parked cars windows, do you call 999?



**Answer:** Yes, he is about to commit a crime by breaking into or possibly stealing a car.

**Question:** Your neighbour has a burglar alarm, it goes off suddenly, knowing that no-one is in, you look around the property and see the back door open, you also hear noises, do you call 999?

**Answer:** Yes, a crime is being committed, and the police could catch the thief in action.

**Here are a few tips on what to look for should you require 0300 123 1212:**

**Question:** You are walking down your street, and you see some damage to two car windows, the car belongs to someone you know but they can't be contacted, do you call 999?

**Answer:** No, the crime has already been committed, and the thief has long gone, the number you should dial is, 0300 123 1212.

**Question:** You are sitting at home, and your neighbours burglar alarm goes off suddenly, knowing that no-one is in, you look around the property, but find nothing disturbed or obvious, do you call 999?

**Answer:** No, although the burglar alarm may have sounded, there may be a fault with the system. The police will not answer a 999 call if you have reported that it all looks fine, or is known as one of those alarms that is constantly sounding off. You should call 0300 123 1212, and report it, the police will come round and have a look. They may well have a word with the owners if it becomes a common occurrence. More questions & answers can be found at [www.mertonnhw.co.uk](http://www.mertonnhw.co.uk)

## Successful Test Purchase Operation in Merton

In response to concerns raised by Merton residents, Safer Neighbourhood teams from Figges Marsh and Ravensbury organised a test purchase operation at shops, off licences and tradesman in the area.

### Figges Marsh Ward

A team of Volunteer Police Cadets aged 15-16 with Trading Standards staff, went into the shops in plain clothes to try and purchase alcohol or knives.

The evening was a success with not a single bottle of alcohol or knife being sold.

The shop owners were spoken to afterwards and they were all keen to ensure they do not sell anything to anyone who is not old enough.

### Ravensbury Ward

In Ravensbury, the SNTeam recently joined forces with Merton Council Trading Standards, to target and prevent offences by rogue builders and traders on the ward.

The team visited builders and workmen at various sites and private houses in the local area, who were asked to provide identification and documents showing compliance with appropriate regulations and legislation.

On this occasion, builders and traders spoken to were all found to be legitimate workers undertaking properly contracted

work, who were supportive of the police and council operation aimed at tracking down cowboy builders.

Here's some advice from the team, to find a reputable trader:

- **Do not deal with doorstep callers offering work on your home or garden**
- **Use traders who are members of officially recognised organisations**
- **Check that the tradesperson is from the company they say they are from**
- **Ask for quotes in writing**
- **Ring more than three traders to get a feel for an average price for the job.**

Remember traders must give you written notice of your right to seven days cancellation when agreeing to do work at your home, including work gained from a cold call.

Please contact Merton Trading Standards if you have any doubts about whether a tradesperson is legitimate on either 0208 545 4018 or email: trading.standards@merton.gov.uk

### Test Purchase Update

West Barnes and Raynes Park SNTeams joined forces and test purchased eleven premises which were hi-lited by concerned residents. Out of those eleven premises, four premises, sold alcohol to the Volunteer Police Cadets.

All shop personel involved in the sale of the alcohol were issued with an £80 Penalty Notice for Disorder contrary to Section 146 (1) of the Licensing Act 2003. Further events are planned throughout the year.

## NHW committee members

Thank you to those who kindly volunteered to be a committee member for the Merton NHW Association. The response was overwhelming and we are sorry if you were not contacted following your enquiry.

Our constitution states that members of the committee need to be co-ordinators, as they represent the watch. We omitted to mention this in our advert and apologise for any confusion. As we are very keen to recruit new members, we would ask all applicants to contact their co-ordinators with a veiw to becoming co-ordinators themselves.

If you do not know who your co-ordinator is or do not have their contact details or would like to find out more about the role of a committee member, please get in touch with Lee Roberts on 020 8649 3213 who will be able to assist you.



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## Useful Numbers to Note

Emergencies	<b>999 or 112</b>	Anti-Social Behaviour Unit	<b>020 8274 5974</b>	Highway Safety	<b>020 8545 3206</b>
Crimestoppers	<b>0800 555 111</b>	Fly-Tipping / Fly-Posting	<b>020 8545 3170</b>	Victim Support	<b>020 8685 1637</b>
NHW Office / Manager	<b>020 8649 3213</b>	Crime Prevention Office	<b>020 8649 3245</b>	Abandoned Vehicles	<b>020 8545 3189</b>
Police - Non Emergency	<b>0300 123 1212</b>	Safer Merton	<b>020 8545 4146</b>	Graffiti Helpline	<b>020 8545 3170</b>

### Disclaimer

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