



Merton Watch

The Official Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter for Merton

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News in brief



Enjoy the festivities

Safer Merton's message to you this festive season is Be Safe, Be Sensible, Be Social.

See Page 2

Be careful of doorstep sellers

Criminals often pose as officials or ask for your help with something. Avoid falling victim to distraction burglars or bogus traders.

See page 2

Keep safe this Christmas

Christmas isn't just a time for giving, it's also a time for taking. Burglars are very active at this time of year.

See Page 3

Are you a real man!

This year, as part of its strategy to help end domestic violence, the Safer Merton partnership of Merton Council, the police, are asking people to think about just what makes up a 'Real Man'.

See Page 4



Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is:

Positive start for junior NHW in Merton

In a first for Merton and possibly London Junior Neighbourhood Watch (JNHW) was piloted at St John Fisher School, Grand Drive, Lower Morden ward for 4 weeks during October 2010.

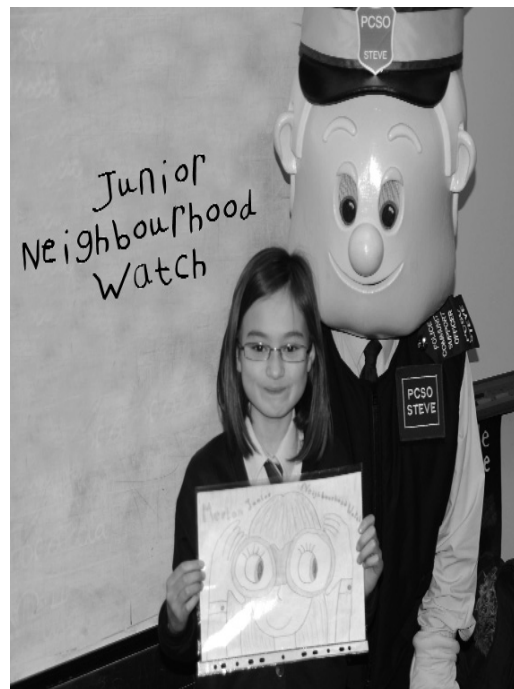
The scheme, which is based on an original idea by Tony Marshall, a NHW co-ordinator from West Midlands, was organised and run by Lee Roberts, NHW Manager for Merton Borough, supported by the Lower Morden Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) and PC Greg Hunt, Crime Prevention Officer.

The aim of the project is to show young people that they can make a difference in their community and encourages the development of a Junior NHW in school. The scheme complements the Citizenship Curriculum and contributes to the every child matters outcomes under Stay Safe and Making a Positive Contribution.

The four, 1-hour long sessions delivered to 52 year 5 students, used quizzes and drama sessions to learn more about NHW, the role of the police, how to deal with situations such as bullying or having a mobile phone stolen, personal safety and crime prevention.

The children put together and presented power point presentations on the subject of personal safety and an observation game got them thinking about how to take down details of a suspects and suspicious vehicles. They also had the opportunity to play with UV pens to encourage them to mark property. Finger printing and handcuffs were used during a talk to discourage criminal activity.

The children were also asked to design a junior NHW logo. The student who produced the winning design (pictured above) not only received a £15 WHSmith Voucher,



but will also see her design on all future stationery. 4 runners up received WH Smith vouchers, which were handed out by PCSO Steve.

The Headteacher, Mrs O'Byrne said "We were very honoured to be the first school in Merton to have Junior NHW. The scheme allowed the children to learn more about the work of Neighbourhood Watch, the role of the police but also how to become active members of the community. Miss Paul, year 5 teacher said: "The children had a great time learning all about NHW and the police. It was a great experience for them to work along side the police, taking part in drama activities, producing ICT presentations, playing games and completing quizzes."

Mrs Davis (PSHE Coordinator & Y5 teacher) said, " This project tied in very nicely with the National Curriculum and the SEAL program as followed by the school and supported the schools' efforts in strengthening links with the local community."

Logo competition winner said: " I thought the lessons were really fun. I am very excited to have won the logo competition. I thought Lee was really good and I liked meeting PCSO Steve. I think Junior Neighbourhood Watch should be in all schools as I think others will learn a lot from it too."

