



MERTON WATCH

The Official Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter for Merton



ISSUE 15 SUMMER 2011

E-Mail: mertonnhw@met.police.uk - Website: www.mertonnhw.co.uk

News in brief



This edition of the Merton Watch is dedicated to the memory of Jack Sims, a Merton NHW Committee member who sadly passed away on 7th July 2011.

Jack Sims sadly gone, but will never be forgotten.

5 minutes with...

PCSO Elif Chambers gives Merton NHW 5 minutes of her valuable time to answer a few questions about her role.

See Page 2

Beware of Scams

Merton Trading Standards offer advice on staying safe from door step scams and rogue traders.

See Page 3

Self Defence classes

Merton NHW are offering FREE self defence classes, for further details.

See Page 4

Your NHW Co-ordinator is:



Merton NHW Association Annual General Meeting

On 10th May 2011, The Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association held its 6th AGM.

The Committee gave a warm welcome to existing and new co-ordinators as well as their special guest speaker from Trading Standards.

Below is a report from the Chair on what has been happening in Merton.

Junior NHW

The first in Merton and London to set up Junior NHW. The scheme was piloted at St John Fisher School in Lower Morden with support from the Safer neighbourhood Teams.

In total, 52 children from year 5 took part in interactive lessons ranging from personal safety to property marking.

Prizes were awarded to the winners of the "design a logo competition" which saw the logo being used on stationery, including rulers.

The association were successful with funding applications which enabled them to roll out Junior Neighbourhood watch across the borough.

Self Defence

26 women attended the self defence classes organised by the association. Women were taught moves that could help them if they had to deal with a confrontation situation.

We were fortunate to have Leoni Lewis, Women's British Jui Jit su champion take the sessions for us.

The Chair was pleased to announce that Merton NHW were successful in a bid to enable further courses this year, see page 4 for further dates.

MET Police Volunteers

To ensure the continued success and expansion of NHW, we have this year recruited 2 new MET Police volunteers to help Lee in the office.

Wendy sanitises the monthly crime figures and Susan makes up members packs.

Wendy and Susan are both assets to the team and we thank them both very much for their support.

Weekly Burglary Figures

Following requests from co-ordinators, Lee now issues burglary figures weekly to those on email. We know this information is useful to co-ordinators and their members, and hope that they continue to support the Police by reporting suspicious behaviour and people.

Two wards with 100% coverage In a first for Merton & London, this year saw the second ward in Merton reach 100% coverage.

The Cannon Hill Safer Neighbourhoods Team worked extremely hard to achieve this. They join Lower Morden who achieved 100% last year.

Number of schemes and launches set up thanks to help from SNT's 28,867 properties are now covered by Neighbourhood Watch.

These are co-ordinated by 553 co-ordinators. Since the beginning of April 2009 - April 2011 (2 years) we have recruited 161 new co-ordinators and signed up 4205 properties.

Due to the help and assistance of the SNT's we continue to set up huge numbers of new properties and believe that this year will be as successful as the previous 2 years.

NHW window stickers

Stocks of Neighbourhood Watch window stickers are running low. We supply each new member with a sticker, however, a recent visual audit around the Borough showed that only a handful of residents actually display them, so should we bother ordering more?

If you would like a sticker then please ask your co-ordinator (co-ordinators, please contact the NHW Manager, if you need supplies). If the response is good, we will continue to purchase stickers for new members.

If you have any suggestions that will see an increase in the number of window stickers displayed, please get in touch.

**CRIME
LET'S BRING IT
DOWN**

Thank you Merton police

A big thank you to all Merton police officers who have been working tirelessly during the rioting and looting.

Many officers worked in excess of 12 hours a day with no rest days. Merton Neighbourhood Watch would like to thank them all very much for all their hard work.

If you have any information about someone involved in the riots or looting, please contact the police or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

CRIME CAN PAY

If you have information about any crime, phone CRIMESTOPPERS on 0800 555 111.

Your call is free, you can remain anonymous and you may receive a reward



Merton Group monitors Stop & Search

Many Merton residents know that Stop & Search and Stop & Account is being carried out by the Police.

If any organisation, especially youth groups, would like to know more about their rights regarding Stop & Account and Stop & Search, Please contact Christine Matthews, Chairperson, at EcMatthews@aol.com or phone **020 8942-3491**.

Jack Sims R.I.P.

It is with regret and terrible sadness that the Merton NHW Association have to inform its members and co-ordinators that Jack Sims, our wonderful friend and fantastic MET Police volunteer passed away at 5.30am, 7th July 2011.

Jack suffered a major heart attack after attending the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace with his daughter.

He received excellent care from doctors and nurses at St Thomas hospital who did everything they could for Jack, but despite their best efforts a decision was made to turn off the machines that were helping to keep him alive. Doctors reassured the family that Jack was not in any pain and passed away peacefully.

Many of you will know Jack for his work with NHW in Merton. We know that many of you met him at launch meetings and other neighbourhood events. He was a regular face at Mitcham police station for the last 5 years helping in the office with all manner of tasks. Nothing was ever too much trouble for Jack who spent many an hour at the photocopier copying crime figures for co-ordinators.

Jack was also a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator for over 20 years and chaired the Ravensbury NHW meeting, represented NHW at the Community and Police Engagement group. He was also a Friend of Ravensbury Park and attended meetings of the Heritage Society and the Mitcham Society.

Jack was such a star, a real asset to the Association we loved having him around. Jack has helped make Merton NHW what it is today and for that Jack, we will always be very grateful. The Police Station and the NHW office will not be the same without him

**Jack Sims
R.I.P.**

5 minutes with...

PCSO Elif Chambers gives Merton NHW 5 minutes of her valuable time to answer a few questions about her role.

We began with...,

Tell us a little about yourself?

I am 38 years old and married and have a 7 years old daughter. I came to the UK when I was 20 years old. I love living in London. I love the diverse community and the way of life in London. I studied Law at the University of Istanbul before I came to England. I love cooking, reading and playing with my daughter when ever I get the chance. My husband works full time as well so we have to be very organised between us to co-ordinate our home life. I really like my job even though I did not initially apply for this role.

How long have you worked on the Lavender Field's Safer Neighbourhoods Team?

Nearly 2 years

Where did you work before?

I worked for New Scientist Magazine in Sutton as a Senior Sales Executive for 5 years.

What does Neighbourhood Watch mean to you?

I really like the concept of Neighbourhood Watch, I believe that Neighbourhood Watch brings people together.

It is a fantastic opportunity for neighbours to get to know each other and is a great opportunity for us (the police) to get to know our residents as well.

It is a good network of information. It really helps with keeping our crime rate down.

What challenges do you face in Lavender Fields in terms of setting up or sustaining Neighbourhood Watch?

I understand that life is busy for everyone. My biggest challenge is finding a co-ordinator who has got some spare time to be part of neighbourhood watch and help the police.

What would you say to anyone who was considering setting up or joining a Neighbourhood Watch?

Go for it. It has got so many benefits that really can help you with your quality of life. Crime reduction and prevention is the main reason you should do it. JUST DO IT!!

Look out for our next 5 minutes with ?, in our next issue of the Merton Watch.

Focus on Crime

Be wise about Scams & Rogue Traders

A scam is a scheme designed to con you out of your cash. Last year, nationwide, we lost £3.5 billion to scams. The Trading Standards Service attended the AGM on the 10th May and gave a talk about the role of Trading Standards and the work that they do. Below are Merton's top 5 scams.

The Telephone Scam

You receive calls from sales people offering to sell products, make appointments or telling you that you have won a prize.

Prevention:

The Telephone Preference Service will prevent unwanted calls from sales companies. It will not prevent overseas companies. This service may take up to 3 months.

The Telephone Preference Service DMA House

**70 Margaret Street
London, W1W 8SS
Tel: 0845 070 0707**

www.tpsonline.org.uk

Ask your telephone company about call barring but there may be a charge. Contact Phonepayplus on **0800 500 212** or **www.phonepayplus.org.uk**

Foreign Lottery Scam

You receive large envelopes for a lottery that you have not entered stating that you have won a prize asking for £30 or more to obtain your prize.

Prevention:

Write or call the Mail Preference Service

The Mail Preference Service DMA House

**70 Margaret Street
London, W1W 8SS
Tel: 0845 7034599**

www.mpsonline.org.uk

This can take up to four months before you see a reduction.

Miracle Health Cures

You receive information by post, website or email offering a miracle cure or a scientific breakthrough that will cure a health problem such as arthritis, diabetes or cancer.

They offer limited availability or money back guarantee. It is highly unlikely that the medicines will arrive or will cure the health problem. In some cases they may be harmful.

Prevention:

Write or call the Mail Preference Service. If you receive it through the post do not open it and return to sender. That way they will pay the postage twice. After a while they will take your details off of their mailing list.

Email. Always delete these adverts without opening.

Doorstep Scam

Utility companies will try and get you to swap over companies and they use very bad tactics.

Some companies have asked residents to sign to say that they have visited and confirmed that they do not want to swap over.

Then 3 weeks later have received a welcome pack.

Prevention:

Always ensure that you read what you sign.

Did you know that you can set up passwords with your energy companies?

So when the meter man comes to read your meter they have to tell you the password that you have created.

That way you know to trust them. But be sure to remember your password!

Charity Bags

Many residents are concerned that the clothing that they give is not going to the correct charities. Merton Trading Standards Service will carry out a leaflet drop in the area if the charity bag is a scam to prevent this from happening.

Prevention:

You can contact the Charity Commission and they can confirm if the Charity are registered or known to them.

Charity commission: **0845 300 0218** between the hours of 08:00 to 18:00

All scams must be reported to Consumer Direct Tel **0845 404 0506**

However, if you wish to make a Doorstep crime complaint, then contact Merton Trading Standards on **0208 545 4018**

**CRIME
LET'S BRING IT
DOWN**

BE WISE ABOUT SCAMS

Be wary of strangers in your neighbourhood offering services or asking for money.

Be wary of bargain home repair offers- if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Don't let yourself get pressured into signing a contract or giving a verbal agreement.

Don't give personal information to people you don't know unless you approached or made contact first

Get estimates, ask for references, and never pay for products or services in advance

Always ask for their I.D.- a genuine person will not mind, if you make a phonecall to their company

If you suspect fraud from a door-to-door salesperson, or tradesman shut the door and call the police immediately



One stop shop

The One Stop Shop is a weekly drop in service (no appointment needed) that offers support and advice for victims of Domestic Violence.

Since 13th September 2010 there have been nearly 70 people that have visited.

The One Stop shop is open every Monday (except Bank holidays) from 9.30am - 12.30pm at the Morden Baptist Church, Crown Lane, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5BL.

For further information on this service please call **020 8685 1637** or **020 8545 4146** or visit their website at www.merton.gov.uk/domesticviolence

Self Defence Classes



We are once again offering free women's self defence classes to Neighbourhood co-ordinators, members, their families and friends.

If you would like to reserve a place at one of the following events, please contact us at mertonnhw@met.police.uk or leave a message on **020 8649 3213**.

Some venues are to be confirmed but if you book a space we will advise nearer the time. You are required to attend both sessions.

The dates are as follows:

14th and 21st September 2011
11:30am-13:00pm - Raynes Park - St Matthews Church Hall, Spence Road (j/w Durham Road)

12th and 19th October 2011
7pm-8.30pm - Mitcham Police Station

29th November and 6th December 2011
7pm-8.30pm - Morden - Civic Centre

7th and 14th December 2011
11am-12.30pm - Wimbledon - Venue TBC

One Stop Shop

Confidential drop in service

For people experiencing domestic violence and abuse in Merton

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Useful numbers to note

Emergencies	999 or 112	Anti-Social Behaviour Unit	020 8274 5974	Highway Safety	020 8545 3206
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Fly-Tipping / Fly-Posting	020 8545 3170	Victim Support	020 8685 1637
NHW Office / Manager	020 8649 3213	Crime Prevention Office	020 8649 3245	Abandoned Vehicles	020 8545 3189
Police - Non Emergency	101	Safer Merton	020 8545 4146	Graffiti Helpline	020 8545 3170

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This publication of the Merton Watch is supported by the Metropolitan Police and sponsored by the above local businesses