



MERTON WATCH

The Official Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter for Merton



Issue 17

**Mitcham
Carnival**

Merton NHW Association are pleased and excited to announce that we will be taking part in this year's Mitcham Carnival.

Please come along and find out more about the benefits of joining or being part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Members of the Neighbourhood Watch Association, volunteers and staff will be on hand throughout the day to answer any questions that you may have.

There will be brilliant performances including Gabz from Britain's Got Talent, a full size family Fun Fair, 20+ Charity and Trade stalls, children's entertainment, little league tournament, food stalls and refreshments.

Saturday 14 June, 12pm to 5pm at the Three Kings Piece, Commonsides West, Mitcham

See you there.

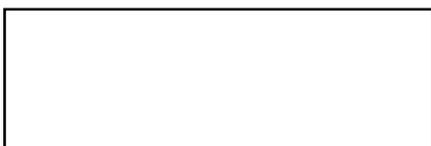
**Scan me, you know
you want too.**

For those of you that have an Iphone, Andriod phone or tablet and want to access our website whilst on the move, Merton NHW can now be viewed on your devices by scanning the QR Logo below



**Scan
the
code**

Your NHW
Co-ordinator is:



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

Beware of scam criminals

Merton Trading Standards are visiting local residents who are at risk of financial harm at the hands of scam criminals.

The visits are being made by Officers as part of the National Scams Hub project which has information that indicates there are a number of Merton residents who are repeatedly targeted by scam mail and/or telephone calls.

Officers are gathering intelligence about scams, raising public awareness and providing practical advice and assistance to affected residents to try to prevent them from losing thousands of pounds of their hard earned cash to criminals.

Councillor Judy Saunders said, "scam mail is a destructive crime, which typically affects the most vulnerable in our society. We want to see this problem tackled and that help is given to those who need it most."

It is estimated that UK consumers lose in the region of £3.5 billion to scams every year, but as it is a largely un-reported crime, this figure is likely to be far greater.

Money swindled by scammers, is known to be used by criminals in connection with drug and human trafficking, terrorism and other criminal activity all over the world.

The effect of scam mail is not limited to the loss of money – victims and their

families suffer emotionally and mentally as a result of being continually targeted.

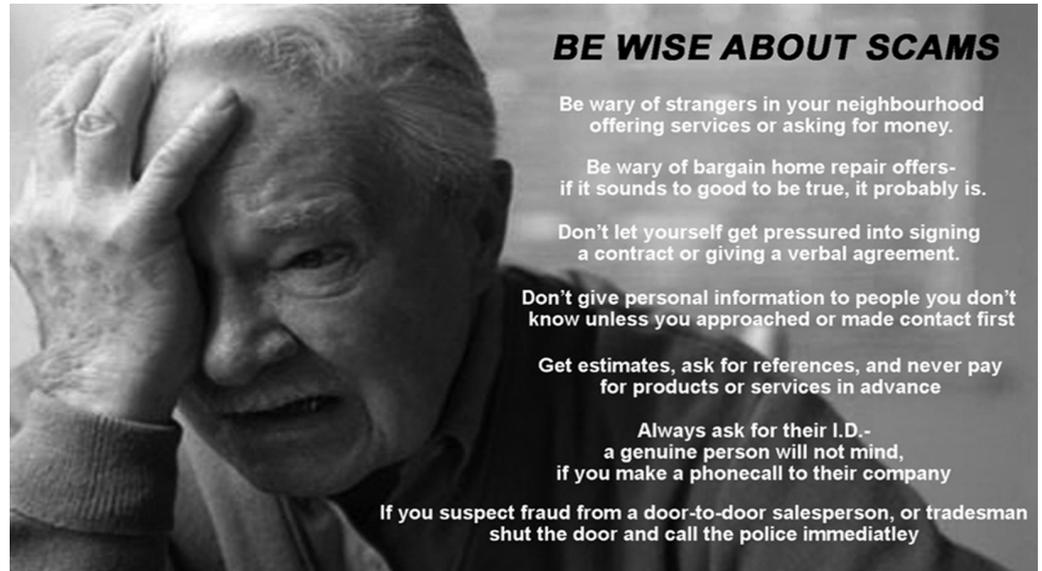
Merton Trading Standards want to help residents affected by or at risk of falling victim to scams.

Scammers constantly come up with new ways to trick people, but some of the things to look out for are:

- The person contacting you is a stranger
- They use your name and make the contact personal to you
- They offer something which is "too good to be true"
- They ask for money
- They ask for bank/ card details
- They ask for personal details
- They give a deadline/ ask for an urgent response
- They urge secrecy/ ask you not to tell anyone

For further information about scams and people who have been affected by scams, can be found at the following website www.thinkjessica.com.

If you would like to report yourself or someone else who has lost money or is at risk of losing money to scams, please contact us.



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

Merton NHW praised at MOPAC meeting

On 31st March 2014 the Mayors office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) invited NHW members from all 32 London Boroughs to City Hall to confirm their continued support for Neighbourhood Watch.

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (Stephen Greenhalgh) praised the contribution of NHW of all 32 boroughs, with three mentions of the successful efforts of NHW in Merton.

He believes that there is a clear connection between the feeling of security of people and the activities of NHW in their area, and promised support for the continued expansion of local watches.

The chair of The National NHW stated that there are now 175,000 watches nationwide with over 4 million members, and confirmed that the Public Liability Insurance for all coordinators has been renewed again. He offered his complete support for our efforts, as did all speakers including the Head of the Met. Police Commander Chishty.

The final speaker outlined the proposed new communication system with central database which will be available to all NHW coordinators, but explained that this was a long-term project which would be discussed again in detail at a later date.

What is anti-social behaviour

Anti-social behaviour can have a significant impact on our lives. It is important to report any concerns that you have about anti-social behaviour. Our aim is to try to resolve the issue or reduce the problem.

Anti-social behaviour is generally described as nuisance behaviour that causes harassment, alarm or distress.

There are many types of behaviours considered anti-social, a few examples are:

- Begging
- Fly tipping & Graffiti
- Harassment or Neighbour nuisance

Safer Merton's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU) understands that it can be difficult or frustrating for you to talk about what is happening. All calls are treated in confidence.

The ASBU and its partner agencies, including police, fire service and housing associations, work together to address persistent problems that affect Merton's residents, workers or visitors.

How to contact us on **0208 274 4907**
Email: ASBUnit@merton.gov.uk

Not all nuisance is anti-social

The Anti Social Behaviour Unit cannot deal with all matters that you may consider a nuisance or distressing. Examples of these include:

- Noise from children playing
- Personal differences/family disputes
- Disagreements about parking
- Civil disputes such as boundary issues
- People gathering socially
- One-off incidents about noise disturbance
- Living or domestic noises, includes:
 - Banging doors
 - Conversation heard through walls or floors
 - Neighbours walking around their home
 - Noises travelling through ceilings or walls due to poor insulation or laminate flooring
- Normal domestic activity such as vacuuming or using washing machines
- Normal vehicle noise

Also, help to address these issues may be possible with mediation. To find out more contact Merton and Sutton Mediation Service on **020 8545 3499**

Are you a curtain twitcher

More than half of us believe that nosy neighbours are the best way to beat burglars. Research also reveals that we actually want residents in their street to snoop more - feeling that our street and our home is safer that way.

It also found properties with less than basic security measures are 10 times more likely to be raided than households with beefed up protection.

The meaning of curtain twitching

Curtain Twitching is the act of standing in wait at the uppermost window in your home, and waiting for people to walk past so as you can give them a bad look, and hopefully be able to call the police if they are acting strange or dodgy in any way.

This type of activity is normally found in suburban areas, and is practiced by most people.

Most of us believe police are more likely to respond to a neighbour's phone call than a burglar alarm. People in Neighbourhood Watch are less likely to be victims.



Useful numbers to note

Emergencies	999 or 112	Anti-Social Behaviour Unit	020 8274 5974	Highway Safety	020 8274 4901
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Fly-Tipping	020 8274 4902	Victim Support	020 7801 1777
NHW Office / Manager	020 8649 3213	Fly-Posting	020 8274 4902	Abandoned Vehicles	020 8274 4902
Police - Non Emergency	101	Safer Merton	020 8545 4146	Graffiti Helpline	020 8274 4902

This publication of the Merton Watch is supported by the Metropolitan Police

Disclaimer

The Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association or The Metropolitan Police are not agents for the businesses or individuals included within the Merton Watch, and are unable to vouch for the professional qualifications, trade certifications and memberships of trade associations which may be shown against individual entries. The Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association and The Metropolitan Police advises the public to satisfy themselves as to the exact type of goods or services offered or qualifications held by the businesses and the individuals advertised in this publication.