



# MERTON WATCH

The Official Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter for Merton



**Issue 18**

**Managers Update**

by Lee Roberts

**Newsletters**

It has been almost a year since we produced a newsletter. Unfortunately, spiralling printing costs and issues with distribution have been the major factor in us no longer printing newsletters.

Feedback from you suggests that these are missed so as a compromise we will be putting together an online newsletter at least 3 times a year, and where possible we will do a small print run for those of you who would like them and who can make arrangements to collect them.

**Street signs**

Over the years there have been a number of problems which have delayed the erection of NHW Street Signs.

The cost to erect a sign is far more than we can afford. We have been working with a number of local groups such as the scouts who have helped us clear a backlog but they are no longer able to assist.

We are currently in talks with the probation service and we are hopeful that those serving a community order may be able to assist. I will keep you posted.

**Increase in working hours**

A request for more hours to work on Neighbourhood Watch has been agreed. I will now be working on NHW for 2 days per week.

Whilst I will continue to have one set day at Mitcham Police Station, the other day will be split between the Civic Centre and Wimbledon Police Station.

I will be working closely with the committee and the police to put together an action plan which will help guide the work I do.

E-Mail: [mertonnhw@met.police.uk](mailto:mertonnhw@met.police.uk) - Website: [www.mertonnhw.co.uk](http://www.mertonnhw.co.uk)

## NHW co-ordinators visit the magistrates



Have you ever wondered what happens in a Magistrates Court?

Throughout April and May Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators were given the opportunity to spend a couple of hours with a Magistrate at Wimbledon Magistrates Court.

The purpose of the visits was to experience first hand what happens in a real live court as most of what we see on television is exaggerated.

Visitors got the chance to meet a magistrate and spend some time in either a remand court or a first hearing court.

Visitors had the chance to see some sentencing, and bail decisions and some case management which shows all the factors magistrates have to consider when organising trials.

Visitors also got to see real live defendants and lawyers at work. Tina King, a NHW co-ordinator from Morden had this to say.

"Our visit began with a talk about what is dealt with at this court, adults Court for 18+ age group and Youth Courts for 10-17 year age group which are not open to the public.

We then sat in court to observe a video link for already serving prisoners whose remand ends before their next court appearance.

Mainly to save time and expense of bringing to court with chance of their place being filled while they are there, resulting in unnecessary transfer some distance away.

We also had experience of live cases mainly to progress them along the system while waiting for extra evidence to come through.

Afterwards we had a chance to ask the Magistrate showing us around any questions. We all found this visit valuable especially to understand what goes on here"

**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:**

## Stay safe this summer



Summer is a time of warm days when windows, doors and garages are often left open. The most common cases of opportunist summer burglary involve offenders that:

- enter an insecure front door while residents are in the back garden
- enter doors that are closed but unlocked at night while residents are asleep
- reach through windows to take valuable items.
- enter through open windows that have been opened but not closed when the occupier goes out, even just for a few moments.

Burglars favour small items of value that they can get rid of quickly such as electrical goods, jewellery, and cash and will even take car keys so that they can steal your car.

### Tips to follow

- Keep ladders locked up or out of sight so they can't be used to gain access
- If possible get someone to look after your home whilst away. They can make it look lived in by drawing curtains, picking up mail, parking in your drive or even mowing the lawn!
- Don't let people see into your home, you may want to put up net curtains, where possible, keep valuables out of sight; you could hide them in a cupboard or wardrobe whilst you are away.
- Lock doors, windows and side gates when you leave.
- Royal Mail provides a 'Keep Safe' service to hold on to your post whilst you are on holiday so it doesn't build up. For information on mail services visit [www.postoffice.co.uk](http://www.postoffice.co.uk)
- Cancel any milk or newspaper deliveries,
- Make sure that your shed and garage are locked securely and any plants are trimmed back.

- Do not put your home address on your luggage when you are travelling to your holiday destination.
- Don't overly publicise that you are going away including on social media.
- Buy a timer switch and use it to turn on a light or your radio or TV, especially during the evenings when you would normally be at home.

## Mitcham carnival

Merton Neighbourhood Watch is pleased to announce they will have a stand at this year's Mitcham Carnival on Saturday 13th June 2015. The event starts at 12-noon at Three Kings Piece, Commonsides West, Mitcham.

Throughout the day, the stall will be manned by members of the Merton NHW committee so please do pop by and say hello.

## Donate your old mobile phone

Do you have any unused and unwanted mobile phones lying around that you would like to donate to Neighbourhood Watch? We use old phones during our Junior Neighbourhood Watch sessions to show children how to correctly mark property such as their mobile phones and tablets.

If you have any old mobile phones that you no longer use or need and would like to donate them for use in our Junior NHW sessions I would be most grateful.

Phones can be dropped off at the front office of either Mitcham or Wimbledon police station marked for my attention, or at Morden Civic Centre. If you could put them in an envelope marked for my attention to ensure staff at the front desk know they are for me and not lost property! Thank you

## Junior neighbourhood watch update



Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers Steve Ratcliffe and Tina King have been working with Wardens Sam and Paul from Circle Homes Merton Priory (CHMP) to deliver Junior Neighbourhood Warden Watch.

They have been working with Year 5 (Silver Class) at Morden Primary School. Junior Neighbourhood Warden Watch is an exciting 5 week programme of activities both in the classroom and external visits to provide knowledge about crime prevention, environmental crime and anti-social behaviour.

The children were treated to visits to Wimbledon Fire Station and Merton Council's CCTV room where they had an opportunity to see CCTV operators in action.

During the final session, which took place in Merton's Council Chamber, the children were presented with certificates by the Mayor of Merton Councillor Agatha Akyigyina and the winner of the Neighbourhood Watch logo was awarded a £15 WH Smith voucher.

## Useful numbers to note

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

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

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