



# MERTON WATCH

The Official Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter for Merton

Issue 19

Managers  
Update

by Lee Roberts

Neighbourhood Watch in Merton has almost always had the full support of the police. The police have helped set up new watches by delivering fliers and talking to residents on our behalf about the benefits of joining Neighbourhood Watch. Before Safer neighbourhoods there was just one "Beat Officer" who helped set up Neighbourhood Watches but the process was much slower.

With the introduction of the SNTeams, schemes rocketed. Our best year was in 2010 when we welcomed 112 new watches. We really were so busy, members packs were literally flying out the door. Unfortunately, since that very successful year we've not been able to achieve those numbers again. The change to the Local Policing model and now the threat of losing the PCSOs altogether means that Neighbourhood Watch will struggle to keep its membership up.

Following a successful pilot instigated by co-ordinators in West Barnes, myself, senior police officers and face of the wards knocked on doors in Farm and Faversham Road's in St Helier to encourage members to join Neighbourhood Watch. The result was better than expected, with every resident I spoke to very keen to get involved, 5 of which volunteered to be a co-ordinator. We are now in the process of officially setting up these two watches.

Over the next few months we will be carrying out similar exercises in Colliers Wood, Longthornton, Graveney, Ravensbury and Cricket Green. To make these and future door knocks successful we need your help. If you can spare a few hours to help deliver fliers or knock on doors we would love to hear from you, whether you live in the above wards of somewhere else as we hope to role this out borough wide.

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

## Top tips to upgrade your home



There's always something else we can do to make our home more secure to protect it from burglars - and a focus on your front door, patio doors and back door is a great place to start. Here's 5 top tips for making the exterior doors of your home more secure.

### Upgrade your locks

Wooden front doors are usually straightforward for DIYers to make more secure, but if you're not sure what you're doing, get in a locksmith or carpenter. Fitting a door chain is a simple but effective security measure, as is a peephole, but high quality, British Standards locks are essential.

You need two locks - a dead-latch cylinder lock and a five-lever mortice deadlock. Some locks offer more security than others - buy the most secure you can afford and if in doubt about the type of locks you need, check with your home insurer, as they'll have minimum standards.

### Bolster your door frame

To prevent burglars entering by forcing the door frame, make sure it's securely screwed or bolted to the walls around it. It can also be strengthened by fitting special bars to make the locking points sturdier.

Hinge bolts prevent the door from being forced off its hinges and should be fitted if the door opens outwards.

### Add a light sensor

If you have both an inner and outer front door, don't skimp on security for the inner door, because once a burglar has gained entry to the outer one, they may not be seen breaking in to the inner one.

A light with a motion sensor at the front of your house will make the front door more visible after dark.

### Strengthen glazed doors

Glazed or semi-glazed doors can be made more secure by fitting a decorative metal grille on the inside, or putting security film on the back of the glass.

When replacing the glass, or buying a new glazed door or side panels, ensure the glass is laminated, so it holds together when shattered, and fitted from the inside, so the beading around it can't be removed from the outside to gain entry.

### Don't forget your patio doors...

The central lock on wooden back doors should be a British Standards five-lever mortice sash lock. It's also a good idea to have secondary security on back doors, such as mortice rack/security bolts or surfaced-mounted press bolts.



Scan  
the  
code

Your NHW  
Co-ordinator is: