



# MERTON WATCH

The official Neighbourhood Watch newsletter for Merton



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Issue 21

Junior NHW  
update



JNHW winning design by Aina,  
Merton Abbey Primary School

On Friday 24th June, Tina King a volunteer from the Merton NHW Association was invited to Merton Abbey Primary School's morning assembly to present the first ever Jack Sims Award Shield to one winning pupil in Year 5.

This was special for Tina King as she was recently elected the new Chairperson of the Ravensbury ward Co-ordinators meetings, to which she was introduced and invited to get involved in by Jack Sims over six years ago.

The award will be kept in the classroom and a larger trophy to be kept at the school. Jack Sims was the Chairperson of Ravensbury ward Co-ordinators and had been involved for many years in setting up and supporting new Co-ordinators until his death a few years ago.

The Junior NHW Scheme continues to be popular with primary schools and children alike. We are pleased to be continuing Junior NHW in Merton's primary schools this academic year. We will be returning to work with schools that we met last year as well as introducing the scheme to new schools. We start working with Lonesome Primary school at the end of September. Watch this space for updates.

## Merton NHW Association AGM

This years Merton NHW AGM will be taking place on Thursday 3rd November 2016 in the Council Chamber at Merton Civic Centre, at 7pm. This year we welcome Adrian Tudway from Crimestoppers, he comes highly recommend by Sutton Neighbourhood watch. As always there will be drinks and nibbles so please do make a note in your diaries.

### Crimestoppers

The Independent charity Crimestoppers has been fighting crime since the organisation was launched in 1988. Lord Ashcroft, KCMG PC, formed the charity following the murder of Metropolitan Police Officer, Keith Blakelock, during the Tottenham riots in October 1985. The purpose of launching the charity was to encourage members of the public with information on criminal activity to come forward anonymously, without the fear of their identity being revealed, without having to give a statement to police and without having to go to court.

Since its launch, Crimestoppers UK has gone from strength-to-strength, taking over 1.7 million phone calls, which has led to over 138,000 arrests, £135 million of goods being recovered and £333 million of drugs being seized. Crimestoppers works closely with police forces across the UK & law enforcement organisations including the National Crime Agency (NCA). Their independence from the police & law enforcement is what makes them unique, which is why so many people contact them with information anonymously.

It is their work within local communities that really makes Crimestoppers successful.

The charity has employees spread throughout the UK who engage with local people to find out about the crimes and issues affecting their community. This way, they can focus their efforts on those crimes and attempt to create a safer environment for the local community to live in.

Staff are supported by a network of volunteers throughout the UK. These volunteers come from varying backgrounds such as media, businesses or local government, bringing relevant skills that aids Crimestoppers' work in their area. The charity's youth service, Fearless, is aimed at 11-16 year olds and aims to educate and inform youngsters about crime and encourage them to pass on information anonymously.

If you would like to pass on information about crime anonymously you can contact Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** or [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org). If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please fill out a volunteer enquiry form [www.crimestoppers-uk.org/support-us/volunteering/become-a-volunteer](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/support-us/volunteering/become-a-volunteer)



## Operation Bumblebee

Operation Bumblebee is an anti-burglary campaign undertaken by the Metropolitan Police, which aims to crack down on burglary in the capital and raise the public's awareness of measures they can take to protect their homes. At this time of year, when the nights start to draw in, there is a seasonal rise in burglary.

The police will be carrying out a number of initiatives to help address this.

## Operation Neptune

Pawn shops will be visited to check stock for any stolen goods. Officers will also take photos of known burglar's to see if staff recognise them.

## Street-a-week

Police will carry out prevention work in areas where there has been a number of burglaries. This will involve delivering leaflets that provide crime prevention advice with the aim of reducing your chances of becoming victim of burglary.

There are many instances of burglary that can be avoided by carrying out some simple steps, such as double locking doors and windows. For a free crime prevention survey please contact your local team directly. Their contact details can be found on the police website, <http://content.met.police.uk/Borough/Merton>

## Trick or treat

Although children look forward to tricks, treats, and ghoulish garb, Halloween can be fraught with fright for the elderly and vulnerable with a legion of masked and costumed trick-or-treaters at the door, following a few safety tips can ensure safe fun for kids and parents alike.

- If you do not know who is calling at your house, you do not need to open the door.

- Try to see who is at the door by looking through a spy hole or window before opening the door.

- If you have a chain on your door - keep this in place when opening the door.

- If you feel threatened in your home, please contact the police.

- Display a No trick or treat sign, available from our website

The Merton NHW Association advice to children & their parents is to be mindful that some of the more vulnerable or elderly members of the community may not wish to participate in Halloween activities and in fact may feel intimidated by groups of people calling at their doors. Safety tips for trick or treaters is,

- If your child is going out trick or treating - make sure they're in a group, accompanied by an adult.

- Older children should let you know where they are going and what time they will be back.

- Children should carry a mobile phone in a pocket or bag.

- Make sure your children know not to enter anyone's house or to accept lifts from strangers.

- Observe No trick or treat posters

## NO-MORE campaign

London Borough of Merton is supporting the NO MORE campaign to raise awareness of domestic & sexual abuse among residents. The launch of the NO MORE campaign took place on the 12th September and was attended by Borough Commander Steve Wallace and Mayor of Merton, Councillor Brenda Fraser, who raised NO MORE flag.

There are number of services available in Merton for those affected by domestic, sexual violence and abuse. Further information can be found at [www.merton.gov.uk/domesticviolence](http://www.merton.gov.uk/domesticviolence) or [www.nomore.org](http://www.nomore.org)

NO MORE began in America in March 2013. Launched as a unifying symbol to end Domestic Violence and Sexual Assaults it campaigns to engage communities to take a stand against these crimes.

In May 2016 NO MORE was launched in the UK. The campaign is overseen by Hestia, one of the leading third sector organisations working within these fields. Hestia undertook a launch event at the Houses of Parliament and are in phase one of three phases for raising awareness



## Useful numbers to note

Emergencies	<b>999 or 112</b>	ASB Team	<b>020 8274 4907</b>	Merton Council	<b>020 8274 4901</b>
Crimestoppers	<b>0800 555 111</b>	Fly Tipping	<b>020 8274 4902</b>	Abandoned Veh.	<b>020 8274 4902</b>
NHW Office	<b>020 8649 3213</b>	Victim Support	<b>020 7801 1777</b>	Graffiti Helpline	<b>020 8274 4902</b>
Police-Non Emergency	<b>101</b>	Safer Merton	<b>020 8545 4146</b>	Fly Posting	<b>020 8274 4902</b>

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

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