



Merton Watch



News in brief

Merton group monitors stop & search

The group analyse data on all aspects of Stop & Search and Stop & Account.

See Page 2

Anti theft number plate bolts

Number plate theft is on the increase as they are often used on stolen vehicles to commit crime.

See Page 2

NHW member finds cannabis factory

A member of a newly formed Neighbourhood Watch suggested that activity at an address in Merton Park appeared to be suspicious.

See Page 3

Merton welcomes new cop on the block

Chris Bourlet joins Merton Police as the newly appointed Borough Commander, succeeding Michael Wood.

See Page 3

Ward contact details

Are you having problems contacting your Safer Neighbourhood Teams?

To find out more

See Page 4



Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is:



The killing must end NOW

In the whole year of 2004, it was reported that 20 youths had died as a result of knife attacks in the United Kingdom.

In June 2007, in London alone, six youths had lost their lives as a result of fatal knife stabbings.

Fatal knife stabbings are now running higher than those in New York.

Within the London Boroughs there has been a total of 21 fatal knife and gun killings. Recent evidence highlighted that a third of youths would carry a knife due to the fear of crime and for protection. This is also evident of the youth gang culture that is being witnessed within the London Boroughs

The Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association says...

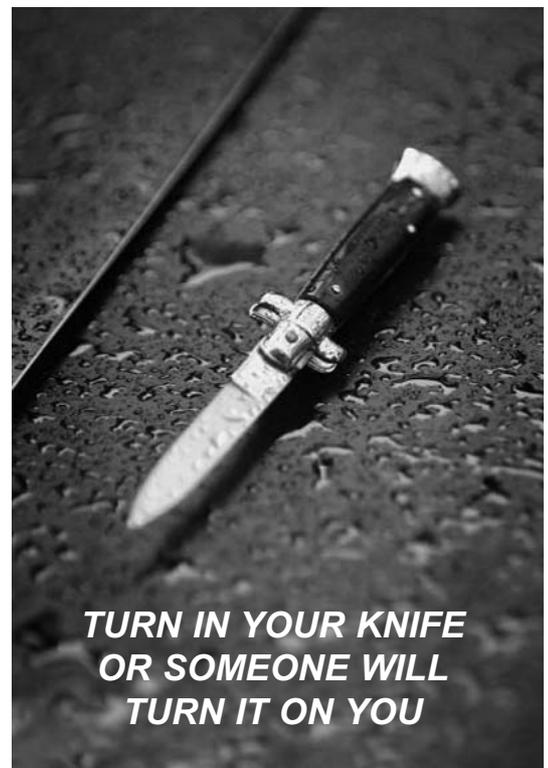
THE KILLING MUST END NOW

The full weight of the Merton NHW Association, its NHW coordinators and members are urged to stand up in the fight to stop this madness that is constantly making the headlines in the news.

To all our NHW members, assist your Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) to bring this knife and gun culture to an end, and stop all this pointless bloodshed that is robbing this once great, law-abiding capital of its youth.

If you know of any one that has committed or is about to commit a knife or gun crime, then please report it to your local Police station, or to your SNT.

You can also report crimes online to www.online.police.uk or in confidence and anonymously to **Crimestoppers** on **0800 555 111**



Knife & Gun killings/injuries to date

The number of people killed or injured by guns in London has risen from 31 in 2003 to 76 in 2006.

Gun enabled crime in London has risen by 4.6% in the past 12 months, from 3,382 offences to 3,537.

To assist in dealing with this type of crime, the Metropolitan Police has set up **Operation Curb**.

This proactive approach deals with the youth culture and works in conjunction with **Operation Blunt** against knife crime and is making inroads into this problem.

The Borough's task force are the lead unit in dealing with this Policing problem.

Merton Group monitors Stop & Search

Many Merton residents know that Stop & Search and Stop & Account is being carried out by the Police, are you aware that the data produced by them is monitored?

The Merton Borough Recommendation 61 Community Monitoring Group is independent of the police except for the provision of data. Its members are from various diverse backgrounds and it has been running for about one year.

The group analyse data on all aspects of Stop & Search and Stop & Account for ethnicity, age, reason, residency status and arrest rates. They get to question the police on their findings and can also make recommendations to them which can include training and record keeping.

If any organisation, especially youth groups, would like to know more about their rights regarding Stop & Account and Stop & Search, the Recommendation 61 Community Monitoring Group are prepared to give presentations around the Borough.

Please contact Christine Matthews, Chairperson, at EcMatthews@aol.com or phone 020 8942-3491.

NHW street sign gets approval

Merton NHW Association have designed a new style NHW street sign. Approval has been granted for the installation of these signs within the Borough.

These will replace any old or damaged signs, followed by requests from the Boroughs NHW coordinators.

If you require a new NHW street sign, please contact the NHW Office.



Christmas Crime Initiative

The Christmas Crime Initiative incorporated plain-clothes operations and uniform policing across Merton. During the period of 13th-24th December, officers from the Crime Squad, Task Force and the Safer Transport Police Community Support Officers were deployed in various ways across the Borough.

Of the arrests that were made a number were for burglary, handling stolen goods and drug supplying. Teams were deployed on early morning raids, late night public order patrols and high visibility patrols around town centres including licensing visits and a knife arch operation at Wimbledon Station.

Inspector Fowles the officer in charge of tactics said, "Once again the increased police presence during the build up to Christmas had an impact on the community by reducing crime and making local people feel safe". A Total of 22 arrests, 68 Stop and Search, 91 Stop and Accounts, 10 stops under the terrorism act and 5 warrants were executed.

Anti Theft Number Plate Bolts

by George Georgiou

"More than 40,000 sets of number plates were stolen in 2006, as car cloning continues to soar, a rise of almost 25%, according to police estimates"

Number plate theft is on the increase as they are often used on stolen vehicles to commit crime, or to beat the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system that is used in London's congestion charging zone, speed cameras and parking tickets.

Don't let it happen to you.

Merton has also seen an increase in this fairly new crime and whilst we have encouraged you in the past to change your number plate screws to clutch screws, and thief proof plates that shatter when tampered with (but cost twice the price of normal plates), there is another product on the market that I recently purchased. This consists of a set of anti-theft number plate screws from a company called **Richbrook**, and have installed them on both of our family cars.

The screws are similar to a normal household screw albeit they have to be screwed on the car bodywork using a special tool and a locking tool, making the number plate virtually non removable without the special locking tool provided.

Register at IMMOBILISE.COM

Remember to register and protect all those new goodies that you and your family received this festive season.

Immobilise.com is a website that allows you to register items such as Mobile phones, MP3 players, Bicycles, Satellite Navigation Kits, Cameras and Laptops.

Registering means that if that item is lost or stolen and later recovered by the police you have a greater chance of it being returned to you.

Immobilise UK account users can record any registered item as lost or stolen and this appears on the Police National Stolen Equipment Database.

If the item is a mobile phone don't forget to also report it to your mobile network so they can block the SIM card and the IMEI number.

Registering is free and only takes a few minutes. You can register as many items as you want at www.immobilise.com.

They are also self tapping and have spinning security sleeves. The pack contains 2 Gold 2 Silver and 2 Black Metal Security Bolts to match your number plate colours. These are used to replace existing bolts or to secure stick on plates. The cost is £5.99 per pack including VAT and delivery is free.



You can buy the bolts online using www.richbrook.co.uk and clicking on the buy online link or telephoning Richbrook on **01328 862 387**

* Source **BBC News**

Focus on Crime

Merton is divided into three police areas, Wimbledon, Mitcham and Morden
Here the Borough Commander, Chris Bourlet, provides us with his
Police profile and commitment to the Borough

Neighbourhood Watch member finds cannabis factory

by Lee Roberts, NHW Manager

In July 2007, staff from Merton Neighbourhood Watch received anonymous intelligence from a member of a newly formed Neighbourhood Watch suggesting activity at an address in Grasmere Avenue appeared to be suspicious. The Merton NHW manager immediately passed the information on to the local police team.

On arrival, Merton Park SNTeam officers believed that the premises were being used for the production of cannabis and forced entry to the unoccupied address.

Factory Discovered

An established cannabis factory was found, with both floors of the house involved in production. Approximately 250 mature plants were discovered, with further dried plants also present.

Sergeant Ian Harman said "It is the actions of local people that are so important in reducing all manner of crime. Without the eyes and ears of the community the police would face an impossible task.

The diligence of the informant and their community spirit is excellent. The work of Neighbourhood Watch goes unnoticed in the main. It is this individuals efforts linking in with the Association and its partnership with the police that is so very important.

May I take this opportunity to thank all members and co-ordinators. Your work is invaluable."

Women's Self Protection Training

by Lee Roberts, NHW Manager

During March and April 2007 over 40 women learnt various techniques regarding women's self-protection. The free self-defence training organised by Merton Neighbourhood Watch was a fantastic success.

Put to the test

It certainly paid dividends for one attendee who only after a week of training put her newly found skills to the test in an incident at a supermarket. Unfortunately the man was not detained by the store security but was spotted a week later and arrested.

I would like to thank all the ladies who attended for being such good participants. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Inspector Chris Fowles who was "such a brilliant trainer" and a hit with the ladies!

Merton welcomes the new cop on the block

Chris Bourlet joined Merton Borough as the new Borough Commander in June this year taking over from Michael Wood who has moved on to head the Central Communications Command, which manages the Met's central control rooms.

Mr Bourlet arrived at Merton having recently served as the Superintendent Operations and Partnership at Croydon.

Prior to that he was the head of Child Protection operations dealing with child abuse investigation. He headed Project Violet, which investigated belief related child abuse and won the Met's Diversity Award in 2006.

He also developed the Met's response to children abused through sexual exploitation, which led to the formation of one of the first multi-agency teams dealing with sexual exploitation in Croydon earlier this year.

His early career covered a variety of uniform and detective roles at Bromley, Southwark and Lewisham before he moved to New Scotland Yard and then to the Directorate of Professional Standards investigating serious public complaints and deaths in custody. On joining Merton Chris said, "I feel honoured and privileged to be at Merton. This is a great Borough to live and work in. We have an excellent police team which



Borough Commander, Chris Bourlet

has made Merton one of the safest Boroughs in London. I am totally dedicated to continuing to reduce crime and make people feel even safer." He went on to say, "When at University in the 1980s I examined the concept of Neighbourhood Watch as part of my studies.

I was completely in support of the scheme then and I believe the schemes are even more relevant today, particularly with the arrival of Safer Neighbourhoods Teams. The link between Neighbourhood Watch and the Teams is something I would like to strengthen further."

Beat the Bogus Callers!

by PC Greg Hunt, Crime Prevention Officer

Christmas saw a slight increase in distraction burglars and bogus callers. These are people who will come to your door pretending to be tradesmen or asking for help; then when your attention is elsewhere, they try and take money or small, expensive items from your home.

Luckily there are relatively few cases in Merton, however it is worth being aware of some of the telltale signs:

- Ask all callers for proof of identity. Genuine tradesmen should carry an identification card with their photograph on. Check this carefully. If you are unsure, telephone the company the caller claims to represent.
- Wait for them to tell you what job they've come to do. Try not to ask them questions such as 'Are you from the gas board?'
- If someone does come to your door and you're not convinced that they are legitimate, don't be afraid to contact the police, either on **999** or on **020 8947 1212**

Ward contact details

If you would like to find out who the officers in your ward are, please use the relevant details listed below.

Morden Sector

Cannon Hill

Tel: 020 8721 2455

E-mail: Cannonhill.snt@met.police.uk

Lower Morden

Tel: 020 8721 2456

E-mail: LowerMorden.snt@met.police.uk

Merton Park

Tel: 020 8721 2451

E-mail: MertonPark.snt@met.police.uk

Ravensbury

Tel: 020 8721 2725

E-mail: Ravensbury.snt@met.police.uk

St. Helier

Tel: 020 8649 3575

E-mail: MertonStHelier.snt@met.police.uk

West Barnes

Tel: 020 8721 2454

E-mail: WestBarnes.snt@met.police.uk

Wimbledon Sector

Abbey

Tel: 020 8649 3584

E-mail: Abbey@met.police.uk

Dundonald

Tel: 020 8721 2450

E-mail: Dundonald.snt@met.police.uk

Hillside

Tel: 020 8721 2458

E-mail: Hillside.snt@met.police.uk

Raynes Park

Tel: 020 8721 2459

E-mail: RaynesPark.snt@met.police.uk

Trinity

Tel: 020 8721 2453

E-mail: Trinity.snt@met.police.uk

Wimbledon Park

Tel: 020 8721 2452

E-mail: WimbledonPark.snt@met.police.uk

Wimbledon Village

Tel: 020 8721 2457

E-mail: Village@met.police.uk



Mitcham Sector

Colliers Wood

Tel: 020 8721 2743

E-mail: ColliersWood.snt@met.police.uk

Cricket Green

Tel: 020 8649 3576

E-mail: CricketGreen.snt@met.police.uk

Figges Marsh

Tel: 020 8649 3603

E-mail: FiggesMarsh.snt@met.police.uk

Graveney

Tel: 020 8721 2724

E-mail: MertonGraveney.snt@met.police.uk

Lavender Fields

Tel: 020 8721 2744

E-mail: LavenderFields.snt@met.police.uk

Longthornton

Tel: 020 8721 2742

E-mail: Longthornton.snt@met.police.uk

Pollards Hill

Tel: 020 8649 3604

E-mail: Pollards.snt@met.police.uk

For further information on your local on Safer Neighbourhoods visit:
www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

Calling all Neighbourhood Watch Members!

Merton NHW Association is currently on the look out for interested members to join their Committee. They would welcome applications from any member, and are keen to hear from you.

If you are interested, then why not come to our next Association meeting

For more details please contact

Lee Roberts, NHW Manager

020 8649 3213



THE WINNING COMBINATION

YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS WHEN YOU MOVE WITH

Toomey Estate Agents

020 8715 9333

Would you like to reach nearly 30,000 addresses in Merton?

Advertising space is available at competitive rates.

If you would like to advertise your business in the next issue call the

NHW Manager on

020 8649 3213

Useful Numbers to Note

Emergencies	999 or 112	Wimbledon Sector Office	020 8649 3144/3145	Highway Safety	020 8545 3206
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Mitcham Sector Office	020 8649 3218/3267	Safer Merton	020 8545 4146
Crime Prevention Office	020 8649 3245	Morden Station Office	020 8649 3125	Victim Support	020 8545 1637
NHW Manager	020 8649 3213	Graffiti Team Helpline	020 8545 3170	Abandoned Vehicles	020 8545 3189
Merton Police	020 8947 1212	Fly-Tipping / Fly-Posting	020 8545 3170		

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.

This publication of Merton Watch is sponsored by the above organisations and local businesses