



Merton Watch

The Official Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter for Merton

ISSUE 9 2009

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Lee Roberts becomes a mother to a bouncing baby girl.

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Police and civilians were praised at the borough commander's annual police commendation ceremony.

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Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator is:



Met volunteer receives commendation award

On the 9th March 2009, at the Merton Council Chambers, Met Volunteer Jack Sims received his Commendation Award from the Borough Commander and the Mayor of Merton.

Met Volunteer Jack Sims, offered his services to the Met Volunteer Programme (MVP) three years ago and since then has enjoyed every minute, Jack says, "I am a Met volunteer and located at Mitcham Police Station where I assist the Neighbourhood Watch manager for one day a week.

The tasks I am asked to perform include assisting in the creation of new Neighbourhood Watch schemes, printing and distribution of crime profile data to the various Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and attending launch meetings.

The work I do is certainly not hard and through it I have got to know several of Merton's Safer Neighbourhoods Teams. During the duration of being a volunteer I have found the staff at Mitcham Police Station most friendly and extremely helpful. They certainly make you most welcome and wanted.

I get a great deal of personal satisfaction at being a volunteer. I feel that I am achieving something and at the same time giving something back to the community".

Devote to helping

The MVP was established in 2001 with the primary aim of getting local communities more closely involved with their policing, and so improving the service that they can offer.

Volunteers benefit the Met in a multitude of ways. They bring a wide range of skills and experience. They add value to the work of trained staff, helping to enhance service delivery and improve customer service.

Furthermore, they act as advocates for the police, increasing understanding and building relationships in the communities they live and work in.



Jack Sims with his award

So not only does the scheme give you the chance to make a valuable contribution to the safety and security of your community, it also allows officers and staff to spend more time doing what they are trained to do. Currently volunteers support the Met in areas such:

- Safer Neighbourhood teams
- Assisting at front counters
- General administration
- Press Office support
- Role-plays for Police training
- Neighbourhood Watch support

Tasks can include updating databases, collating evaluation questionnaires and general administration tasks. There's a wide range of areas in which your borough might need additional support. If you have a few hours to devote to helping your community each week, the MVP may be just the opportunity for you.

To complete an initial application form you need to download and complete a Met Volunteer Programme Application Form and then email your completed form direct to your local borough Merton MVP Manager.

Sylvie Chrzanowska
Email: sylvie.chrzanowska@met.police.uk
Tel: 020 8649 3079

Get your door sticker



The Merton NHW Association have designed a door sticker to deter would-be cold callers knocking at your door. These stickers are yellow in colour and stand out in order to be noticed.

If you wish to receive one, then please get in contact via your SNTeam or send us an e-mail with your details at mertonnhw@met.police.uk

News from your local police

Every Safer Neighbourhoods police team now produces a local newsletter about their latest activities. The newsletters contain team contact details and information about how you can tell them your concerns and get involved. All newsletters are available online but will also be delivered to every household and business across the borough of Merton. The next issue is planned for April 2009.

This new communications initiative will enhance the local communications carried out by each Safer Neighbourhoods team, and will help to ensure every resident and business within the borough of Merton knows who their local team is and how to contact them.

SNTeam close cannabis factory in Longthornton

On 27th February 2009, officers from Longthornton SNTeam supported by other police departments executed a drugs warrant in Ebenezer Walk, SW16. The SNT had received intelligence to suggest that the property was being used as a cannabis factory.

On entering the premises, between 70-100 cannabis plants were found in two of the three upstairs bedrooms and plants in the third bedroom and lounge area had been harvested and drying out on plastic sheets. It is believed the harvest totalled a further 70-100 plant. Also found in the premises was hydroponics equipment worth approximately £10,000.



Footprints

As you know burglary has been an issue for the Borough. Merton police have launched a new initiative and would like Neighbourhood Watch coordinators to pilot this.

The police would like to pilot the Foot Print leaflets in 3 wards that have had the most burglaries to try to reduce this.



The Foot Print leaflet is designed to be posted in the letter box of a house that looks insecure (i.e window, garage, security gate, alley gate left open) in the hope that the occupier reads the leaflet and secures their property when they leave it. If the occupier needs crime prevention advice this can be given to them by the Safer Neighbourhood Team.

What we have asked coordinators to do is, take the leaflets out with them and when they are out an about and if they see an unsecured house, post a leaflet through the letter box and a couple of days later check that the house has been secured.

This initiative will be rolled out across the borough over the year and a letter and leaflets will be sent to all coordinators.

Lee Roberts becomes a mother



Lee Roberts, NHW Manager, became a mother to a bouncing baby girl named Anabelle, weighing in at 8lb 7ozs.

Both mother and daughter are doing fine.

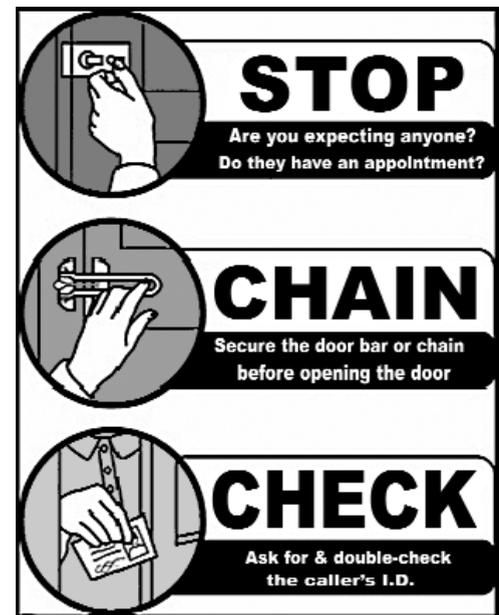
Conman claims to be water official

A fake water company inspector is tricking his way into residents homes in Merton and making off with cash and personal items.

The conman has been linked to five thefts or attempted thefts in the past few months. He strikes by claiming to be a water official and asking elderly residents to clear the cupboards under their sinks so that he can check the plumbing, while this is going on, he steals items including bank cards from their homes. One victim has lost items of sentimental value including personal letters.

He has struck three times across the borough at various locations so far this year, he is described as white, 6ft tall, 35 - 45 and was wearing a dark hat and duffel coat and pink or skin coloured gloves.

Merton Police and the Merton NHW Association urge all residents to be on their guard and check the identification of any strangers calling at their door. Anyone with information should call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



Did you know?

The Metropolitan Police attend to 170,000 violent crimes every year in London, that equates to one every three minutes.

The Metropolitan Police answer on average 1400 call every single night.

Anti Social Dispersal Order (ASDO), are issued to people that are cautioned and given 15-20mins to leave the area such as around nightclubs or large crowd gatherings, and not to return in within the 24hr period of issue.

Safer Merton

Working Together To Keep Merton Safe & Sound

Under Construction!!

The Merton NHW Association are in the early stages of constructing their own website.

The website will contain contacts for every ward, crime statistics, newsletters and other items all of which will be downloadable from our website. The web address or who will be hosting it, is still undecided, but will be announced shortly.

Protect those valuables

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

Immobilise.com is a website that allows you to register items such as Mobile phones, MP3 players, Bicycles, Sat-Navs, Cameras and Laptops, or anything that has value for free. 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 IMEI number. You can register as many items as you want at www.immobilise.com.

The Chair's corner

by W.B.Picano

Welcome to our ninth edition of the "Merton Watch" Newsletter, which again is full to the brim with useful information and tips on keeping safe.

The people of Merton are starting to show a keen interest in setting up Neighbourhood Watch schemes in their local areas, which are consequently on the increase throughout the Borough with an average of one per week in 2008.

This is good news for the Association. Our long term aim would be to see every area and street in every ward with an active scheme.

If you know of anyone who lives within the Borough and does not have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, please try to encourage them to become a coordinator.



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London

Focus on Crime

**Merton is divided into three police areas, Wimbledon, Mitcham and Morden, supported by Safer Merton.
SNTeams are holding dates for public meetings and drop-in surgeries, see below.**

Have your voice heard



Abbey Team

06/05/2009 - 10:00 - 12:00 Drop-in Surgery
Pincott Road

Cannon Hill Team

13/06/2009 -11:00-14:00 Drop-in Surgery
25/07/2009 -11:00-14:00 Drop-in Surgery
Martin Way

Colliers Wood Team

21/05/2009 - 19:30 - 21:00 Community Event
JAG at St Josephs Church

Cricket Green Team

30/04/2009 -16:00-17:00 Drop-in Surgery
14/05/2009 -16:00-17:00 Drop-in Surgery
South Mitcham Community Centre

Dundonald Team

02/05/2009 -11:00-16:00 Community Bus
The Plaza (O/S Morrisons), Wimbledon
Town centre
06/06/2009 -11:00-16:00 Community Bus
Wimbledon Chase Primary

Figges Marsh Team

08/05/2009 -12:00-14:00 Community Bus
Mitcham Clock Tower
06/06/2009 -10:00-11:00 Drop-in Surgery
Mitcham Library.

Graveney Team

28/05/2009-11:00 -15:00 Community Bus
Venue TBC

Hillside Team

01/05/2009 - 20:00 - 21:00 Street Briefing
St Georges Road Car Park, SW19

Lavender Fields Team

05/05/2009 -19:00 - 21:00 Drop-in Surgery
02/06/2009 -19:00 - 21:00 Drop-in Surgery
Lavender Pavillion, Steers Mead

Longthornton Team

12/05/2009 -10:30 -12:00 Drop-in Surgery
Streatham Vale Baptist Church, Leonard
Road, SW16

Missed an issue!

The Merton NHW Association can now issue this newsletter and previous editions via e-mail?

To receive this issue or previous editions please forward your e-mail address to:

mertonnhw@met.police.uk

Lower Morden Team

07/05/2009 -11:00-13:00 Community Bus
King Georges Playing Fields
13/05/2009 - 19:00 - 20:00 Public Meeting
Morden Baptist Church

Merton Park Team

05/05/2009 - 20:00 - 21:30 Public Meeting
Merton Park Primary School
31/05/2009-10:30 - 11:15 Drop-in Surgery
Morden Baptist Church

Pollards Hill Team

13/05/2009 -10:00-11:00 Drop-in Surgery
03/06/2009 -10:00-11:00 Drop-in Surgery
Residents Shop South Lodge Avenue

Ravensbury Team

23/05/2009 -13:00 -15:00 Drop-in Surgery
Morden Hall Park
24/06/2009 - 19:00 - 21:00 Public Meeting
Residents Meeting Room, Watermeads
Estate, Rawnsley Avenue

Raynes Park Team

07/05/2009 -10:30 -11:30 Drop-in Surgery
Carters Estate Site Office
23/05/2009 -11:00-13:00 Drop-in Surgery
Morden Hall Park

St Helier Team

27/05/2009 -19:30-21:00 Public Meeting
Place TBC

Trinity Team

05/05/2009 -18:00-20:00 Drop-in Surgery
YMCA, Wimbledon
08/08/2009 -11:00-16:00 Community Bus
North Road, SW19

Village Team

20/06/2009-11:00-16:00 Community Event
Wimbledon Village Fair, Tug of War.

West Barnes Team

No Dates available at time of going to print.

Wimbledon Park Team

06/05/2009 - 18:00 - 20:00 Drop-in Surgery
03/06/2009 - 18:00 - 20:00 Drop-in Surgery
Wimbledon Park Pavillion

**CRIME
LET'S BRING IT
DOWN**

Merton's best honoured with awards

Top cops who performed rescues from burning buildings, confronted armed criminals and cracked fraud operations were honoured with commendation awards on 9th March 2009 at the Merton Council Chambers.

As well as police staff, civilians were also praised at the borough commander's annual police commendation ceremony. Chief Superintendent Chris Bourlet announced awards for 22 individuals for commitment, professionalism, dedication and leadership. Mayor Martin Whelton, who handed over the commendations, said he was "amazed by the bravery" of the winners.

Two detectives who cracked a new type of immigration fraud using "James Bond" tactics were among those receiving awards.

PCs William Aherne, Matthew Bryan, Ashley Bartels and Paul Lungley were commended for their efforts tackling three armed robbers.

Another award went to Jack Sims, a veteran volunteer who has played an important role in setting up NHW teams across Merton.

The night's other commendations were given for successes including beating burglars and shoplifters, helping vulnerable victims and keeping police cars in top condition.

PCs Andrew Darby and Emma Houghton who rescued a woman from a "life threatening" fire in Colliers Wood last year were also singled out for praise. PS Michael Day, guided neighbours out of their houses despite receiving injuries himself. He had nominated his colleagues for an award without mentioning his own efforts, but all three were commended for bravery, courage and professionalism.

DC Samantha Batchelor was nominated for her investigations into an attack that left a policeman seriously injured after he was stabbed with a screwdriver.

DS John Maude was commended for his work investigating crimes across Merton, including a series of knifepoint robberies and the killing of a Polish man in an abandoned school.

Patricia DeJesus, a Merton council employee, was described as an "extraordinary individual" and praised for her enthusiasm and dedication in developing a partnership between the council and police.

Frederick Spurway, the man responsible for maintaining the force's fleet of vehicles, was commended for commitment and dedication to duty.

DS Russell Ferris, DC Stephen Welding and PC Raymond Robinson were commended after they ensured a highly dangerous man was held in a psychiatric hospital,

PC Kevan Jones was handed his award for years spent tackling the problem of burglary in the borough.

DC James Fox was commended for professionalism, detective ability and tenacity in solving a huge number of burglaries in the borough.

Jane Austin, a member of police staff, received an award for innovation in record keeping that had helped the force support victims of domestic violence and hate crime.

PCSO Clare Hammond was recognised for helping to establish Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Lower Morden,

PCSO Carl Lewis received an award for the second year running after he chased and detained a shoplifter on Merton Road in March last year.

Contacting Merton NHW

Merton NHW now have a new e-mail address, so please send all correspondence to:

mertonnhw@met.police.uk



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**NHW Manager
on**

020 8649 3213 or mertonnhw@met.police.uk

Useful Numbers to Note

Emergencies	999 or 112	Anti-Social Behaviour Unit	020 8274 5974	Highway Safety	020 8545 3206
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Fly-Tipping / Fly-Posting	020 8545 3170	Victim Support	020 8545 1637
NHW Office / Manager	020 8649 3213	Crime Prevention Office	020 8649 3245	Abandoned Vehicles	020 8545 3189
Merton Police - All Stations	0300 123 1212	Safer Merton	020 8545 4146	Graffiti Helpline	020 8545 3170

Disclaimer

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This publication of the Merton Watch is supported by the Metropolitan Police and sponsored by the above local businesses