

STAFF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

By Lee Roberts, Neighbourhood Watch Manager

Each year, Merton Council staff have an opportunity to



vote for colleagues in the Staff Excellence Awards; the awards are to recognise individuals or teams who go the extra mile. One of the categories is Contribution to Merton Community, and allows staff to recognise partners and colleagues from other organisations.

One of the things I love about Neighbourhood Watch is that I get to meet and work with lots of different people. One of those is PCSO John Joseph (JJ for short) who is the dedicated PCSO for Pollards Hill Ward.

JJ and I have worked together on Junior Neighbourhood Watch for a number of years in many primary schools across the borough. His passion, commitment and enthusiasm are totally infectious and working alongside him is an absolute pleasure.

You cannot fail to be totally impressed by the way in which he interacts with the children and how he manages to capture their imagination. He makes every single one of them feel valued, and, in his words, "priceless". He is passionate about young people, and as well as his work on Junior Neighbourhood watch, he helps train football in the Pollards Hill area.

Nominating JJ was very easy as to me he is a bit a legend and if you are ever lucky enough to get to meet him, I think you will see why.

Congratulations on your award JJ.



Editor's Note

Seasonally, burglaries tend to rise at this time of the year so please take extra precautions. Timer switches for lights and double locking doors and windows are very simple but effective ways of protecting your home. There was an unfortunate case recently where a spade, which had been laying around the back garden, was used to prise open the back doors of a property. Please ensure that garden tools and ladders are safely locked away.

We would like to take the opportunity of wishing you all

**A
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR.**

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2018 AGM

By Roger Steele, Chairman

The Merton Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Association AGM was held on the 7th of November in the Council Chamber at the Civic Centre.

The Chair welcomed those attending and introduced the Committee members before outlining the activities of the past year, including:-

Our new and improved Newsletter, which can be viewed on our updated website www.mertonnhw.co.uk together with crime figures, contact details, and crime prevention advice. You can also download leaflets and request forms for street signs.

Junior NHW sessions were carried out at 3 more schools and the Jack Sims Trophy for the best slogan was won by Kazia from William Morris Primary School.

The NHW coverage indicated a slight fall in the number of members and the results of the recent survey were shown which will be used to improve our communication.

The treasurer's report showed a healthy balance although, as before, there had been a considerable delay in receiving agreed funding.

Our stall at Mitcham Carnival was well attended and, as always, any assistance at events like this would be very welcome.

The Chair thanked everyone for their involvement in NHW, the Police and Safer Merton for their continued support, the SN Teams, Met volunteers and the committee. The committee were re-elected for another year

Inspector Bob Whitehead explained the merger of the four borough forces. He was able to assure everyone that the level of the local policing would be maintained.

After a Question and Answer session we had a talk by Jason Young on his work to discourage gang membership.

AGM AND CONSENT TO SHARE

By Lee Roberts

Results from the Neighbourhood Watch survey showed that many co-ordinators wanted to share their contact details with other co-ordinators and members. I have compiled a list and, with the help of a MET

Police volunteer, will be updating the database to reflect this. This means that I can share details without the need to write to co-ordinators to gain permission. As you can imagine, this is time consuming and often results in delays. I will circulate the list, which will be continually updated, with those who have given their consent.

In the New Year we will be making contact with those of you that we have not heard from to ask for your permission. Giving your permission means I can put you in touch with new members, you can chat with other local co-ordinators, share news and good practice and arrange meetings if you so wish. Please know that we only use your details for Neighbourhood Watch purposes and will never share without your consent. If you would like to give your consent before the New Year, please download and complete the "registration and data consent form" under the download section of our website – www.mertonnhw.co.uk



A WARNING- DON'T LET THE BURGLAR HAVE THE ADVANTAGE

By Adelaide Keegan-Kirby, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Now that Christmas is just around the corner "tis the season for burglars too" who, at this time of year, are especially on the lookout for opportunities that we might otherwise unintentionally provide for them.

Be very careful when disposing of your Christmas gift packaging and boxes. Don't leave the stuff just sitting outside your property waiting for the bin men's collection. Empty boxes that once contained a new computer, a nice camera, top-of-the-range TV, bicycles and the rest of the prezzies that were so lovingly bought or received for, or from, family members is simply advertising to the crooks, - "Look what we have just received and is sitting indoors – come help yourself". They are given the green light and they know the product is there so can 'case' your property and pick their own time to come and collect. Let's not make our homes a target any more than they are already at this particular time. Discard those empty boxes carefully.

"Stop and think for a while. Don't let the thief remove your lasting Christmas smile".

Note: Please register new items and other valuables such as mobile phones, iPads and bikes at www.immobilise.com the UK's national property register. Immobilise helps the police identify owners of recovered property which means, if your item is stolen, there is a possibility of it being returned to you



THEFT OF AND FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

Some very good feedback was received regarding the crime prevention tips on Theft of, and from, Motor Vehicles so this has been repeated on the next page.

Over the last few months there has been an increase in the number of 'theft from' and 'theft of' motor vehicles. Many of these crimes have been reported where there has been no sign of forced entry to the vehicle, or the vehicle has been stolen with the lawful owner still in possession of the keys.

There are two main locking systems for vehicles, these are Key Fob and Key less. Both can leave your vehicle vulnerable to crime if certain precautions are not taken.

Key Fob entry

The system works by sending random combinations of code to the vehicle each time the fob is pressed. As copying the code is therefore useless, the thieves have come up with another way to prevent you from locking your vehicle.

Thieves are jamming the signal from your key fob to your vehicle by using a number of different devices. These devices can be purchased from as little as £2 from the internet and come in many forms such as, garage door openers as well as house light controllers/dimmers. Many of these devices act to block your key fobs when you attempt to lock your vehicle.

Thieves are able to block signals in whole areas such as, car parks or streets by hiding these devices in bushes with a clothes peg activating the device for long periods of time and without the need for them to be in the vicinity.

There is a solution. Once you have activated your key fob, YOU MUST ensure the lights have flashed indicating the car has received the signal, then check the vehicle is locked by lifting a door handle.

Keyless Car entry

The signal for a vehicle with keyless entry cannot be jammed. However, the signal used for vehicles with this form of security system is unchanging and broadcasts continuously between the fob and the vehicle. IT CAN BE COPIED.

Fobs, made by different manufacturers, use different re-useable distance. This is the distance between the vehicle and the range in which the vehicle will be unlocked. This can be up to 30 feet from the vehicle. For many people this could be less than the distance between your vehicle and where you leave your keys once inside your home. **YOUR VEHICLE MIGHT NOT BE LOCKED.** Alternatively, if your fob is transmitting continuously, the distance between where the device is in your home and the pavement, driveway etc. may be sufficient for a potential thief to copy the signal. Once copied the thief can not only enter your car but also steal it, or any property within it.

The advice from Thatcham is as follows:

If you have a vehicle with a keyless entry system, keep the key in a '**Faraday Cage**' where the signal cannot escape (or you can line a Tupperware pot with foil and get the same effect). This is the same advice as given to us in relation to tap credit and debit cards. You can now purchase small metal credit card cases at an affordable price. You can then remove the plastic card holders and keep your key fob in there. Search for an RFID blocking case/wallet.

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT VISIT

By Janet Sherington, Merton Park Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and Met Police Volunteer

On the 23rd October, 2018 myself, Roger Steele, Chair of Neighbourhood Watch and a few Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators and members from Longthornton Ward were lucky enough to be given the opportunity to have a tour of the Houses of Parliament by Siobhain McDonagh, the Mitcham and Morden MP.

The day started in the Great Hall which is the oldest building in the parliamentary estate and where many a King and Queen and Winston Churchill have laid in state



The building is colour coded, Gold for the parts used by the Monarch, Red for the Lords and Green for the Commons and this is also continued to the bridges outside. Westminster bridge is green the same as the

House of Commons whilst Lambeth Bridge is Red for the House of Lords.



We enjoyed a cup of tea on the River Terrace with wonderful views of The London Eye. We were also lucky enough to be able to sit in on a live debate on the change to the Abortion bill which was passed! It is good to see how the wheels of democracy work.

I am very appreciative of the fact that Siobhain took the time out of her day to show us around and for Azad, Longthornton Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator, for organising it.

SCAM ALERT

If you receive the following message relating to a post office scam – please **DO NOT** forward it on. This is an old scam from 2015 and has been shut down. Nothing will happen if you phone the numbers.

“Christmas is fast approaching, Royal Mail and The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam.

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting they were unable to deliver a parcel and you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number). If you call the number and start to receive a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 0207239 6655.”

For more information see the Crime Stoppers website.

HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF SCAMS

Don't become a victim of a scam - come to a presentation on **Saturday 2nd February 2019 at The Everyday Church, Queens Road, SW19 8LR** (adjacent to Centre Court) on **'HOW TO AVOID SCAMS'** on credit card, phone, cash machines, doorstep deliveries and online protection.

Starting at 10am until 1pm (doors open 9.30)

Guest speakers, Met Police Cyber Crime Unit and Trading Standards.

Expert advice from Age UK, Financial Services, Trading Standards, MASCOT, Victim Support, Citizens Advice, Neighbourhood Watch and Neighbourhood Police

Local Members of Parliament, Mayor, Council executives and South West Borough Commander have been invited to attend.

Refreshments available.

Hosted by: Merton Safer Neighbourhood Board

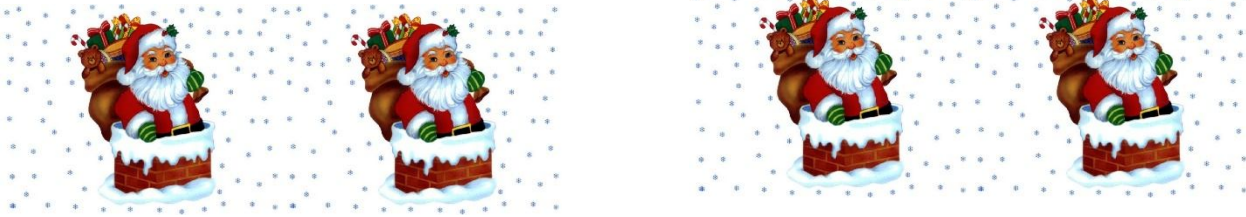
Further information: - saferneighbourhoodboard@merton.gov.uk

CARTOON CORNER



This time of year can be lonely for the elderly and those living alone.

Please take the time to look out for your elderly and often, vulnerable lonely neighbours.



JUNIOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

By Steve Ratcliffe and Tina King – Neighbourhood Watch Committee Members

We continue to deliver Junior Neighbourhood Watch in Merton Primary Schools and are currently working with William Morris Primary School in Pollards Hill. We continue to deliver Junior Neighbourhood

In the New Year we are delighted to be working with a new school Hollymount Primary in Raynes Park. The first time we have worked with a school in this area.

After this, we return to William Morris Primary to work with the other Year 5 Class which take us up to Easter 2019.

Soon we will be presenting the Jack Sims Award for the best Neighbourhood Watch logo developed by a Year 5 pupil during 2018.



Jack Sims Trophy - Small

The smaller Trophy above will be retained by the school.

The award will be going to Kazia at William Morris Primary School and she will receive her trophy at an arranged school assembly. Below is Kazia's winning entry:



Jack Sims Award Trophy - Large

The large award will be held by the winning school for a year and then returned.

WINNING ENTRY

