

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK 17th – 23rd JUNE, 2019.



The theme for this years Neighbourhood Watch week is #MoreThanYouExpect, and is our opportunity to remind others that Neighbourhood Watch isn't just about preventing crime.

The Neighbourhood Watch network www.ourwatch.org.uk are keen to hear from you. They would like to highlight the work you do to create safer and stronger communities and if you're doing something that is not traditionally associated with Neighbourhood Watch, they would love to hear about it.

Neighbourhood Watch volunteers will be encouraged to share the work they do on social media using the hashtag #MoreThanYouExpect during the week.

Please email your examples to William.Murphy@OurWatch.org.uk

Events being run and hosted by Merton NHW

15th June – Mitcham Carnival, Mitcham, 12-5pm

17th June – Scam awareness – Civic Centre, Morden, 7pm – presentations from police and trading standards and stalls.

19th June, 10.30am - Tour of CCTV control Room, Civic Centre, (BOOKING ESSENTIAL)

20th June – Co-ordinator THANK YOU – please see editors notes for details.

To book, or for more information please email lee.roberts@met.police.uk or leave a message on 020 8649 3213



Editor's Note

Calling all Coordinators! As a thank you for all your hard work and to give you the opportunity of meeting other coordinators in your area, the Committee have organised a social event with one free drink and finger food supplied.

Date - 20th June, 2019

Time 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Venue - The Central Ward Residents and Sports Club

**Between 55-57 Ashridge Way,
Morden, SM4 4ED**

Please note that due to catering requirements the last date of acceptance will be **Wednesday, 12th June, 2019.** For those wishing to attend please register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/merton-neighbourhood-watch-co-ordinator-social-tickets-61224561311> or email lee.roberts@met.police.uk

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COMMUNITIES AND KNIFE CRIME EVENT *By Jennifer Quested, Graduate Trainee – Knife Crime lead*



On Saturday the 18th May, the Communities and Knife Crime event took place at Morden Baptist Church, with a brilliant turnout of over 100 people.

Guests were able to speak to a host of stall holders from the organisations Catch 22, Jigsaw4u, Victim Support, CrimeStoppers, Unique Talent, London Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade, ATS Creative Academy, Growing Against Violence, UpTown Youth Services, Neighbourhood Watch, Trading Standards (LBM), Transforming Families Team (LBM), and Safer Merton (LBM).

London Fire Brigade Cadets and Police Cadets were there to welcome attendees and support the event.

Presentations were given about knife crime and the work that is being done to prevent and tackle it, by the newly appointed Mayor Janice Howard, Leader of the Council Stephen Alambritis, Roberta Evans from Adolescents and Families (LBM), Alexa Loukas from CrimeStoppers, Christian Douglas from Unique Talent, and Sally Benatar the Borough Commander for the South West London BCU, London Metropolitan Police. These presentations were followed by a Q and A with all panel members, and included questions regarding the use of knife arches in schools, and the role of the media in tackling knife crime and providing local reassurance.

Attendees were asked to make pledges on sli.do throughout the event, and the pledges with the highest number of votes have been taken away by the Safer Merton team, and an action plan will now be developed around them. Some of these top pledges were:

'(ATS Creative Academy) will use our Youth Film & Performance programme to encourage extra activities along with mentorships'

'I will promote Fearless.org as a safe way for people to report crime'

'I will promote the London Fire Brigade Cadets and Police Cadets to young people in my area'

Attendees who supplied their contact details will receive updates within the next two weeks on the status of the pledge action plan.

The event was closed by Councillor Edith Macauley, Cabinet Member for Community Safety who said

“Although Merton is one of the safest boroughs in London, we are aware that our residents are affected by knife crime and the fear of crime is a major concern for them.”

“Thanks to all those who have participated and made contributions in tackling this very serious crime. I’m confident that with our excellent Police service, we will be able to stop this most violent crime which has left so many families angry and helpless losing their loved ones.”

If people wish to make a pledge to support our work on knife crime, or to hear more about how we are working with partners, please contact the Safer Merton service via safer.merton@merton.gov.uk .

IDAHOBIT (INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA, BIPHOBIA AND TRANSPHOBIA)

By Kate Saunders, Hate Crime Lead, Safer Merton

Friday 17th May saw the Mayor of Merton, Members, Merton's LGBT+ Forum, Council, Police, LFB and community representatives raise the Freedom Flag above the Civic Centre to mark IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia). The event was well attended with colleagues coming together to show their support and take a stand against hate in any form.



Merton LGBT+ Forum is a valued member of our Hate Crime Strategy Group which is working hard to raise awareness of hate crime and let victims know support is available. We continue to run our Hate Crime Advice Surgery once a month at the Civic Centre in conjunction with Tell MAMA and other partners, with the next being held on Tuesday 18th June, 1-2pm.

To find out more about Merton's LGBT+ Forum, visit: mertonlgbtforum.org.uk or for information about Hate Crime and how to report it, visit <https://www2.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communitysafety/hatecrime.htm>

TRADING STANDARDS

By Hannah Lumley

Trading Standards cover a wide variety of areas, however they all centre a round protecting consumers. As I'm sure you are aware there are an

increasing number of people becoming victims of scams; telephone, internet, postal and doorstep. Sadly it is not uncommon for victims to loose large amounts of money; in some cases their life savings and even homes. These issues affect everyone, and not just the stereotypical person you may think.

BEWARE OF DOORSTEP CALLERS!

Look out for Clive, does he really need a new drive?

Top tips to help you and others take a stand against doorstep scams

1. Never use cold-callers.
2. Consumers are legally entitled to a 14-day cooling off period for contracts formed at their home.
3. Check the identity of the caller.
4. Encourage people to ask a trusted person for advice on reputable traders.
5. Everyone should display a "No Cold Calling" sticker.
6. Always report suspicious activity.

Find out more about scams visit www.friendsagainstsams.org.uk

If you're not sure, don't open the door!

For advice on scams call Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline: 03454 04 06 06
To report scams contact Action Fraud: 0300 123 2040

NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS Scams Team

We are carrying out educational talks to residents in the borough. We hope that by talking to residents about these issues we can empower and educate them to help beat these scammers! The talks have been well received and in most cases we are accompanied by the local SNT police team.

#ScamAware

Don't let your Gran get scammed

Criminals often target older people to scam them out of their money. What can you do to protect Gran from getting scammed?

Signs Gran might be responding to scams and how to help:

- Receiving lots of post and sending lots of post to companies abroad.
- Goes through large amounts of stamps and cheque books.
- Receiving lots of phone calls from strangers or companies.
- Large amounts of cheap tat and scam mail.
- Frequent visits to the Post Office or bank.
- Unpaid bills.

What can you do?

- ▶ If you're worried Gran might be susceptible to telephone scams look at installing a call blocker.
- ▶ Sort her mail with her so she can recognise a scam.
- ▶ Get Gran's permission to redirect her mail.
- ▶ The most important thing you can do is spend time with Gran. Many older people respond to scams as a result of loneliness or social isolation.

If you want advice on scams, want to report a scam or need advice on how to help someone you think has been scammed please contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506

CEA Citizens Advice Consumer Service
tsf Trading Standards
NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS Scams Team

If you are a member of any coffee mornings or groups and would be interested in a talk please contact me on: Hannah.lumley@merton.gov.uk or 0208 545 4020. The talks are very informal and we encourage discussions. We are happy to come whatever the size of the group. In fact we have found that the smaller groups can be more beneficial to the audience as people are more likely to ask questions and join in discussions.

developing our communities and celebrating our successes. Once we have developed our proposals, we will share these with co-ordinators and partners to show the direction and way we plan to deliver Neighbourhood Watch in Merton in the future

CARTOON CORNER



MERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (MNW) – PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

By Steve Radcliffe

The MNW Committee have been working with Robin Newman, Neighbourhood Watch Network, (<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk>) to develop a long-term strategy and action plan to help us take Neighbourhood Watch in our borough to new level. This means identifying and developing skills and roles, moving forward in areas such as our website, newsletter, and use of social media, developing and enhancing our relationships with the police and other partners, improving our Membership,



Dates for your diary

Wimbledon Fire Station Open Day

Wimbledon Fire station
87-89 Kingston Rd
Wimbledon
SW19 1JN

Date and time of the event;

Sunday 21st July 2019

(Doors will open to the public between 11am – 5pm)