



## JACQUI SIMS, METROPOLITAN POLICE VOLUNTEER MANAGER



*Jacqui Sims*

I was born in the East end at the time of free love and Thalidomide. It was also a time that we always saw our local bobby riding his bike around the streets and we knew him by first name. For most of the kids we feared him more than our own fathers. I remember the mums telling him all the naughty things we kids had been up to when he was on

His rounds. Inevitably, it would end in a cuff round the ear for the boys but for me, I would be found hiding behind my mother's pinny in awe of his uniform. Something I never did grow out of and I am talking the latter rather than the former here

Everyone knew everyone on our old cobble stoned streets and when there was a stranger in the midst, there would be lots of curtains twitching and the tougher mums would stand on the street keeping an eye on them and never too shy to ask them who they wanted – the early days of neighbourhood watch.

My affiliation with volunteering started at an early age, unfortunately not quite the orthodox version as it is now. I was always the first one to volunteer to welcome a new neighbour in the community by knocking on their doors.....then running away. I believe you called it 'knock down ginger' back then. Still we did our bit for Neighbourhood Watch as all the kids were out on the streets at every opportunity and always inquisitive toward a new face. We just didn't get that many houses burgled. This may have had something to do that we had nothing to take.

As a young teenager I moved to New Zealand where I spent my early teens volunteering and this time for all the right reasons. I spent all my summer holidays volunteering at a ranch where I could ride horses all day long in return for looking after them.

Never very academic at school at 15, I began an 8,000 hour apprenticeship in the field of hairdressing, qualifying at the age of 18, and going on to own my

### Editor's Note

Welcome to the first edition of the relaunch of your quarterly Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter.

We would welcome your contributions, be it questions you would like answers to, articles you feel you would like to contribute, appropriate jokes, cartoons, upcoming events and ways of making your newsletter better and more interactive. We're sure there must be some budding writers/reporters out there.

However, please do be aware that should you wish to contribute articles etc., and they be deemed inappropriate or offensive, they will not be published.

In the meantime, we do hope that you will take the time to read and enjoy the contents of this edition and give us your feedback.

**HELP: Is there anyone who would be prepared to photocopy 300 copies of this newsletter on a quarterly basis for free!!**

To make any contributions, please email us [Mertonnhw@met.police.uk](mailto:Mertonnhw@met.police.uk)

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own business. It was during this time the uniform crossed my path once again. I was still in as much awe of it as I was when I was a little girl however, this time it was more about who was actually in the uniform and so began a 9 year romance with the police officer. I'm sure I was always destined from my East End days to be connected with the police but at least this time it was not for being naughty. I did try to become a police officer back in the early 80's but unfortunately I didn't meet the criteria as I was too short. Can you believe that's how things once were? How we have moved on.

In the early 90's I returned to the UK and was given an opportunity to work for the Metropolitan Police as a Traffic Warden in Kensington. My dream job! Actually it wasn't far from it as I had the most wonderful and exciting time of my life and enjoyed every minute. The stories I could tell you but reserved for another time 'A day in the life of' Ha Ha'.

I married a police officer I met on the beat, started a family and I decided to hang up my Fixed Penalty Notices. I went on to have several career changes within the establishment during my 26 years' service with the Met Police and, in 2003, took promotion to project manager. My first project was in crime prevention and working with SmartWater, a unique form of property identification.

## Becoming a Special

Running parallel to this role, I began managing 7 volunteers at the front counter on my base borough in Sutton. It is a small satellite station in heart of Worcester Park that I boosted and enrolled some 25 volunteers at its peak. The more I worked with my team of volunteers I began to see a different side to volunteering and realised just what it meant to the people offering their time to us and began to understand all the reasons why they wanted to. Inspired by my team of volunteers, I offered my time once again to become a volunteer. So here came that uniform again and this time I was wearing it! I completed a 17 week training course to become a Special Constable and gave an average 20 hours per month whilst working my day job. Unfortunately some years later I had a back injury that prevented me from

continuing. My time of volunteering in this capacity sadly came to an end or maybe just put on hold for that one day?

## The Metropolitan Volunteer Programme

In 2013 the Met volunteer programme was larger than ever but along came the cuts. I was fortunate to be selected to retain the Sutton Borough MPV programme and, in addition, took over the management and running of the programmes at Merton and Wandsworth. Having 3 boroughs' programmes and managing over 60 volunteers has not been a walk in the park but I can certainly say that I rose to the challenge and 4 years on have not one, but three great programmes filled with many wonderful volunteers that help support the Met police in a variety of ways. Most of the roles are associated with admin tasks and use of the IT systems, however there are other roles that require a little more physical support such as our Cadet Support Leaders assisting officers with the running of the weekly meetings and attending camps and activity weekends away.

Over 16 years of being a volunteers manager, I have learnt so much about my people and witnessed some amazing stories of what they have done and, for some, what they have gone on to achieve. I have witnessed volunteers that have blossomed with confidence having being given the chance to learn new skills and share some of their own with us. Some have become police officers and police staff; some have gone on to pastures new outside of the Met with all the confidence and skills they have accomplished.

For me?? Well I get so much out of my role every day but to be nominated for the Merton Partnership Volunteer Manager of the year award and then went on to winning gold, well that just articulates it all.

If you would like to become a volunteer and you have a spare 10 hours per month please visit our website and enrol at:

[www.metpolicecareers.co.uk/volunteers](http://www.metpolicecareers.co.uk/volunteers)



## VICTIM SUPPORT

**“We know that acts of terrorism cause significant psychological harm, including a feeling of intense distress when reminded of the incident.”**

Specialist support is available for those affected by the recent terror attacks in London. Victim Support is commissioned by the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to support those affected by terror attacks and major incidents.

Victim Support is a charity with over 40 years’ experience supporting victims of crime and abuse. They provide specialist support in a number of areas that include major incidents.

Their specially trained staff and volunteers respond to the needs of victims and witnesses immediately following exposure to trauma and also provide longer term support.

Their services are free and can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling our dedicated Support line on:

**08 08 16 89 111**

[www.victimsupport.org.uk/london](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk/london)



### **A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO MOTOROLA MOBILE COMPANY**

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Motorola Mobile Company who very kindly donated 50 dummy phones for the use of our Junior Neighbourhood Watch programme. The children were delighted and look forward to using them. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

## COUNTER TERRORISM



Neighbourhood Watch organised a talk by Matt Bryan, Merton’s Counter Terrorism lead in the council chamber with an attendance of 50 people. Matt, showed a 4 minute video which detailed what to do if you are caught up in a knife or gun attack – **Run, Hide, Tell**

**For more detailed information please click on the link :**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/stay-safe-film-merton-nhw@met.police.uk>

## COMMUNITY ROAD WATCH – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do vehicles speed down your road? Are you worried about yourself or others being injured by speeding cars? If you answered yes, you may like to get involved in Community RoadWatch.

Community RoadWatch gives local residents the opportunity to work side by side with their local police teams, and use speed detection equipment to identify speeding vehicles in their communities. Warning letters will be issued where appropriate, and the information can help to inform the future activity of local police teams.

To take part in Community Roadwatch and to suggest a residential area where there are community concerns around speeding, contact the Merton Safer Transport team at **020 8649 3013** or [Nicholas.Toohar@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Nicholas.Toohar@met.pnn.police.uk) and [Zarif.Adem@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Zarif.Adem@met.pnn.police.uk)

It only takes about an hour and you will be given full training. If you would prefer to work in a neighbouring ward, this can be arranged.



## PROPOSED POLICE STATION CLOSURES

Since 2010 the Met Police have had to find £600m of savings and must save a further **£400m by 2020** – all as a result of Government funding cuts.

Mayor Sadiq Khan is determined to protect the front line from cuts, and he has published draft plans to: **close costly and underused police front counters** in London and **provide better ways to contact the Met online**.

He says that by doing this would help to meet growing public demand to be able to access Met Police services from smartphones, tablets and computers, whilst saving £10million that could be spent instead on frontline policing.

These plans will have an impact in Merton as the Mayor of London proposes closing Wimbledon front desk and Wimbledon Police Station moving the 24hr front desk to Mitcham Police Station. Safer neighbourhood team (SNT) bases will also close.

The proposal document can be found at [www.london.gov.uk/public-access](http://www.london.gov.uk/public-access) In the document page 27 refers to the front desks and pages 51-64 listing satellite offices to close. **The consultation is open until 6 October 2017.**



## REPORTING CRIMES

### The Police

In emergency call **999**

If a crime is in progress or if someone is in immediate danger

Call **101** if a crime is not an emergency, to give information to the police or to make an enquiry.

Reporting Crime Online to the Police

Visit: [www.met.police.uk/report/](http://www.met.police.uk/report/)

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### Anti-Social Behaviour

Contact your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team : [www.mertonnhw.co.uk](http://www.mertonnhw.co.uk)

or

Merton police on **101**

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### Terrorist Activity

To report an immediate terrorist threat.

Call **999** or the police anti-terrorist hotline on

**0800 789 321.**

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### CrimeStoppers

If you have information about a crime but would prefer not to speak to the police.

Call anonymously on **0800 555 111**

Visit : [www.crimestoppers-uk.org/](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/)





## JUNIOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



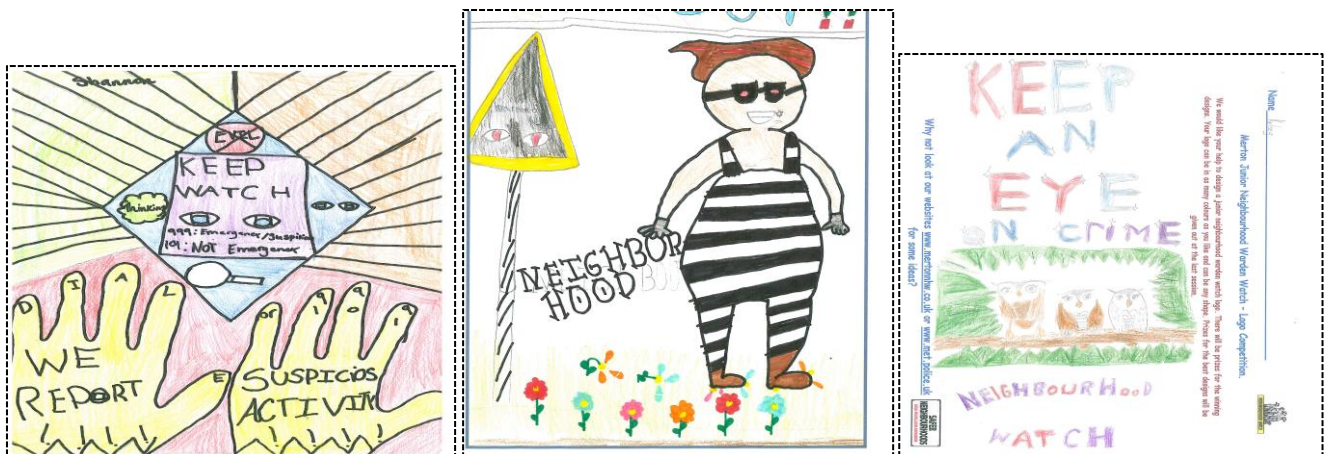
Lee, Tina and Steve continue to deliver the Junior Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to Year 5 pupils at Primary Schools in Merton. Schemes completed

earlier this year were Lonesome, Morden and Benedict. Further schemes are planned for later this year at William Morris and Harris, both in Pollards Hill, and other schools are being identified for 2018.

We always try and get some feedback from schools and the children about the scheme and the following are examples of what some of them have said:

Casey-Rose said, "I liked meeting the Mayor of Merton"; Adam said, "I liked it when we went to the fire station because there was a lot of information"; Stefania said, "I liked the fire station project because I know how to protect myself"; Sarah said "I liked the litter picking because it is helping the community

One of the things we encourage children to do within the scheme is to design a logo for Neighbourhood Watch. The winning entries receive a gift voucher. Below are a few entries from earlier this year.



2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Shannon

1<sup>st</sup> Place - Fatima

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Kelsey

The school winning overall best logo receives the Jack Sims Trophy