

SPRING 2023

Merton Neighbourhood Watch



DOG THEFT AWARENESS DAY 14th MARCH 2023

What to do if your dog is stolen

There are a number of things you should do if your dog is stolen, all of which will increase your chances of recovering it.

- Contact the police and report your dog as stolen, providing as many descriptive details as you can. Make a note of the crime reference number.
- Contact your local council to make them aware.
- Contact the microchip database holding your dog's details and update them about the theft. Should the dog be recovered and checked, it will be possible to reunite you.
- There are many websites for missing animals, so make sure you add details of your dog's loss to these, using the photos you have taken. Include the crime reference number.
- Vets are also a good place to advertise the loss of any dog, as well as local animal rescue centres.
- Noticeboards in local parks may also allow you to place missing dog details.



Call for Volunteers

Please get in touch with nhw@merton.gov.uk if you would like to give your time to Merton Neighbourhood Watch. We are currently looking for **Committee members, a Newsletter Editor and Twitter Manager**. Time commitments are flexible, and we welcome individuals from all backgrounds with a range of skills.



Merton White Ribbon Accredited

The vast majority of violence against women and girls is perpetrated by a small minority of men. The aim of White Ribbon is to give voice and support to those men who would never think of using violence against women and are willing to call out unacceptable behaviour by other men.

We can all make a difference – but sometimes we are not always sure what to do or where to start. White Ribbon Day offers men and women specific ways of making a difference for this important movement.

Make the White Ribbon Promise: Please go online and make the promise - encourage others to do the same – this promise is for everyone to never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women. By doing so, you're becoming part of this wider movement to end violence. <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/promise>

Follow White Ribbon UK on twitter: @WhiteRibbon_UK

Stay connected... email: nhw@merton.gov.uk twitter: [@WatchMerton](https://twitter.com/WatchMerton) phone: 020 8545 3622

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CRIME PREVENTION PROJECTS

Merton Neighbourhood Watch were pleased to secure funding 2022-2023 from the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime to purchase a supply of bike marking kits, shed alarms and catalytic convertor marking for the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Bikes are marked using a tamper proof QR code sticker and details of the owner added to a national database. This acts as both a deterrent to thieves and a tool for the police to identify stolen bikes and return them to their owners. The catalytic convertor marking uses Smart water.

During January and February 2023 bike marking events took place across the borough at Morden Leisure Centre, Horizon centre Pollards Hill, Abbey Recreational Ground, Mitcham Town centre, Tandem Centre Colliers wood and Civic Centre Morden some of these events were also supported by the Southwest BCU Outreach team.



Read more about the bike register scheme here. <https://www.bikeregister.com/>



Bystander Training:

Many of us when faced with a challenging situation would hope we could do something to help someone in need. This is especially true when that person is a friend, colleague, or neighbour. However, the reality can be a bit more complicated.

Active bystandership is a skill and one that can be trained to help people become active bystanders, better friends, colleagues, and neighbours.

By the end of this highly interactive online workshop participants will:

- ***Define the term violence in a way that supports prevention.***
- ***Better understand both what prevents and motivates bystander action.***
- ***Discuss a range of safe options that make up a bystander toolkit.***
- ***Practice their responses to a challenging situation.***

We all have the potential to make a difference in the life of another. This training simply aims to equip you with knowledge, confidence, and a set of useable options to make that difference.

Bystander Training for Community

14th March – 6.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bystander-training-for-community-tickets-477171511837>



MERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022/23

We are delighted to invite you to our Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday 7th March 2023** at Council Chamber, Civic Centre Morden at 7pm.

There will also be a talk from Warm & Well in Merton and a Q&A session with Merton Neighbourhood Police Inspector Andrew Martin.

To Join the meeting please book a ticket online at **<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/merton-neighbourhood-watch-association-agm-tickets-526371430117>**



MERTON DEMENTIA SERVICES

Alzheimer's Society in Merton is commissioned by Merton Council to provide the borough with a community dementia support service.

At Merton Dementia Hub, we provide a range of activities for people with dementia and their loved ones, helping maintain social stimulation and engagement, as well as encouraging physical activity. Carers can join training and learning sessions and meet each other to share experiences and form valuable connections. The Hub is also a place where people can come for a range of other services including chiropody, massage, health checks and Audiology

The Hub is also home to Monday Memory Clinic, Bereavement Service, Psychologist and Cognitive Stimulation Therapy.

Merton Dementia Hub

67 Whitford Gardens, Mitcham CR4 4AA

Telephone 020 8687 0922 E-mail merton@alzheimers.org.uk



METROPOLITAN POLICE - NEW YEAR NEW CAREER

London is one of the most exciting and diverse cities in the world – and policing it is no easy task. It takes a huge number of people from all sorts of different backgrounds with a wide range of skills and experience. Do you have what it takes to be one of them? Find out if a career with the Met is what you're looking for and what kind of challenges; experiences and rewards you could have in store.

Our Outreach Team is made up of officers and staff from across the Met. They work closely with all communities, particularly those from under-represented communities, increasing awareness and understanding of the role of policing and career opportunities in the Met.

Whether you want to know more about the career opportunities, training, or how we can best support you, the Outreach Team are here to answer your questions.

Make contact: You can contact the Outreach Team now <https://policecareers.tal.net/vx/lang-en-GB/mobile-0/appcentre-3/brand-3/candidate/so/pm/15/pl/19/opp/9645/apply>

Send us your contact details along with any queries you have and a member of the team will be in touch.

GOOD NEWS STORY – TEA WITH THE MAYOR

During Hate crime awareness week October 2022, we launched a hate crime awareness poster competition rolled out across schools within Merton, with our partners from Stop Hate UK.

The successful winners and their families were invited to take tea with the Mayor on 19th January 2023 and received their book token.



A hate crime is any crime that is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice based on a person's perceived race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability. To report Hate crime in Merton please contact Stop Hate UK.

STOP HATE CRIME
0800 138 1625
24 HOUR HELP LINE

FREE Catalytic Converter Forensic Marking Event

Safer Neighbourhood Teams set up in the car park of Waitrose in Raynes Park on Sunday 5th February 2023 to make people's cars safer by marking catalytic converters.

The theft of these devices, which have been fitted to most cars made since 1997 to cut down on emissions, has soared in recent years with around 100,000 reported over three years and many other cases believed to be unreported.

Thieves can steal the converters in minutes, by lying under the car and cutting it off. They are then sold for hundreds of pounds because they have rare metals such as platinum or palladium in them. The theft can leave cars practically worthless, or else facing increased insurance premiums.

Using kits supplied by Merton Neighbourhood Watch officers had invited local drivers to register their cars and bring them along on Sunday morning - more than 45 residents came along on the morning.

Marking the cars requires them to be jacked up and then the converter is 'painted' with SmartWater, a substance which has a unique chemical structure only used on that car.

Police register the SmartWater used on each car so that if the converter is stolen and subsequently recovered, it makes it easier to obtain a prosecution against the person alleged to have stolen it.

Councillor Eleanor Stringer, Cabinet Member for Civic Pride, said: "It's excellent news that we've been able to help residents fight back against this increasingly common form of crime.

"The marking event, which will be followed by other events throughout the year, demonstrates again how we are working hand in hand with the Metropolitan Police to make residents safer and more secure."

There will be more marking dates throughout the year: follow our Twitter feed twitter:

[@WatchMerton](https://twitter.com/WatchMerton)

to find out when and where they are taking place.

To find out more information about Merton Neighbourhood Watch see:

<https://www.mertonnhw.co.uk/>



Keep your home safe this spring

- Protecting your garden and outbuildings not only keeps bikes and other valuables in your shed safe, but can also stop burglars getting into your home.
- Low front boundary; keep hedges and walls at the front of your house low (under one metre) so burglars have nowhere to hide.
- Secure side gate; keep side gates locked at all times. Open gates mean burglars can easily access your home without being seen by passers-by or neighbours.
- High side and rear boundaries with trellis and spiky defensive planting; keep hedges, walls and fences around your back garden high (over 1.8 metres). Add lightweight trellis to gates and fences and plant some prickly plants to make it harder for burglars to climb over.
- Gravel driveway and path; gravel driveways and paths make it harder for burglars to go undetected.
- Security light; install an outside security light so that intruders can't approach without being seen.
- Intruder alarm system; install a burglar alarm system.
- Secure your shed; always keep your shed locked and secured, and make sure it is anchored down to prevent it from being lifted in order to gain access. Often sheds contain valuables such as power tools and bicycles.

