

WINTER 2023

Merton Neighbourhood Watch



Merton is legally defined as a [‘Smoke Control Area’](#)?

Meaning:

You must not emit a substantial amount of smoke from a chimney – there should be hardly any smoke visible, **and** no grey or dark smoke.

You must only burn [fuels authorised](#) by Defra **unless** you’re using an appliance on Defra’s [list of exempt appliances](#)

You can be fined up to £1,000 if you burn unauthorised fuel without using an exempt appliance.

Facts:

Fires are not a cost-effective way to heat your home.

An Ecodesign wood burning stove can produce 450 times more toxic air pollution than gas central heating.

Burning wood and coal at home emits dangerous fine particular matter (PM_{2.5}), a known carcinogen – it can cause disease and exacerbate existing health conditions.

Avoiding burning wood or coal will help improve your own indoor air quality and your health.

Merton council discourage all forms of burning as it causes air pollution, can upset neighbours and can damage health, particularly of children, older people, and those with breathing and heart conditions. For further information and advice please visit [Merton - Smoke control and domestic wood burning](#).

Welcome to Merton

Superintendent Luke Mooney

Starting my journey in Neighbourhood policing instilled in me a deep passion for problem-solving and a drive to improve people's quality of life. As a steadfast supporter of Neighbourhood Watch, I've witnessed first-hand its potential to unite communities, keeping our friends, families, and neighbours safe. My heart is filled with gratitude for everyone involved in this initiative.

I am privileged to serve as your Superintendent for Merton and I am committed to our mission of Less Crime, More Trust and High Standards.

Snapshot of our achievements over the past year:

Less Crime:

- Merton celebrated its lowest burglary levels in over a decade!
- Significant drops in neighbourhood crimes:
- Robbery: ↓19.6%
- Burglary: ↓12.3%
- Theft of motor vehicles: ↓26.4%
- Theft from motor vehicles: ↓14.7%
- Vehicle interference: ↓13.1%
- Aggravated vehicle taking: ↓28.6%

However, there's a notable increase 27.5% in "Theft from Person." Do exercise caution with personal items in public areas.

Building Trust:

Recent shocking events involving certain MPS officers have underlined the need for our unwavering professionalism and integrity. With Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley at the helm, rooting out corruption and ensuring your trust in our service is a top priority. One such trust-building initiative was the improvement of public safety in Mitcham Town Centre through Operation Hambling, yielding substantial reductions in crime rates and antisocial behaviour.

Our collaboration with the Local Authority is proving impactful, particularly in enhancing safety in Mitcham Town Centre. Our commitment is simple: less crime, enhanced partnerships, and earning your trust.

Engaging the Community:

The 'New Met for London' event on September 9th, 2023, was a milestone, collecting insights from nearly 200 residents. These invaluable inputs are guiding our renewed focus on visibility, communication, engagement, and collaborative efforts. Watch out for the next event on January 9th, 2024!

As we chart our course ahead, rest assured that our dedication to ensuring Merton remains safe is paramount. While we strive to improve, we acknowledge our shortcomings and the need to keep learning. You have an incredible group of police officers and PCSO's in Merton led by two highly motivated Inspectors Kevin Chambers and Oli French-Greenslade who are relentlessly working hard for your safety and well-being.

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

LET'S WALK & TALK

Chat to our friendly local officers and share your thoughts on women's safety

Wednesday 29th November, 6pm at Morden Recreation Ground, 74 Farm Road, SM4 6RB, by the outdoor gym equipment.



Domestic Abuse

We are here to support you.....

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, then confidential advice and support is available at:

THE ONE STOP SHOP, Mondays 9.30am – 12 noon, Morden Baptist, Church, Crown Lane, Morden SM4 5BL (Closed on bank holidays)

Information: 020 7801 1777 www.merton.gov.uk/domesticviolence

<p>Victim Support Merton Domestic Violence Workers 020 7801 1777</p>	<p>24-hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline (access to refuge) 0808 2000 247</p>
<p>Galop (service for LGBTQ victims) 020 7704 2040</p>	<p>Respect (for people who are abusive towards their partners) 0808 802 4040</p>
<p>Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre South London 0808 802 9999</p>	<p>Men's Advice Line (for male victims) 0808 801 0327</p>
<p>NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000</p>	

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IMPORTANT - PERSONAL

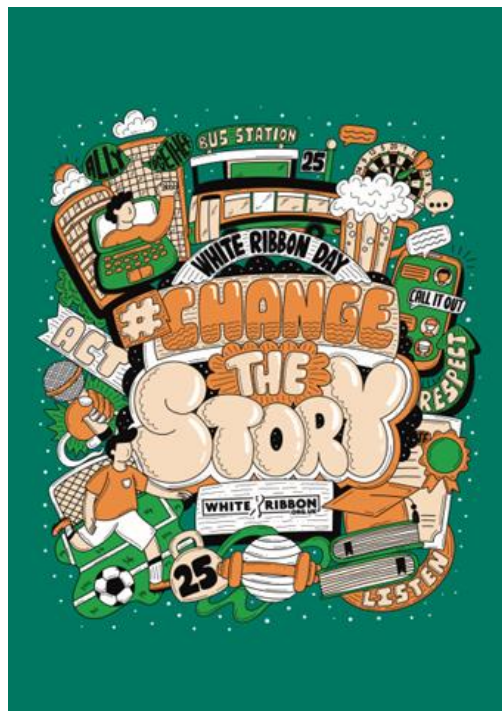
White Ribbon Day

25th November

The simple but vital mission behind White Ribbon Day is to prevent violence by men, against women and girls. Why? Because it is a long time coming that something needed to change. Change of long, established, and harmful behaviours around masculinity that perpetuated gender inequality and men's violence against women.

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 all men 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>



HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS



Home security advice.

- *Do you have presents under your Christmas tree?*
- *Can they be seen from a window?*
- *Don't give thieves an easy target.*
- *Keep windows and doors always secure.*
- *Keep presents and valuables out of sight.*
- *Dispose of all boxes and packaging carefully, particularly from expensive presents, and do not leave it on show outside the house.*
- *Security mark gifts and valuables with your postcode and house number.*
- *Register items using the free service: immobilise.com which enables police to identify the owner of valuables if they are stolen.*

Out shopping

- *If you are visiting the shops this Christmas, be careful how you leave your car.*
- *Do not leave valuables or shopping on display in your car.*
- *Close windows, sunroof, lock doors & activate security alarms when leaving your car.*
- *Park in a busy, well-lit area or secure car park if possible - Visit <http://www.parkmark.co.uk/> for details of approved local car parks.*
- *Take valuables with you when you leave your car, eg: cash, credit cards, mobile phones, sat nav systems etc.*
- *Avoid going back to your car to leave your shopping part-way through your trip.*
- *If you have no choice, make sure valuables and shopping are locked in the boot; taking care no-one is watching you.*
- *Do not leave your bag unattended on your trolley whilst loading your car.*

Shopping online

Choosing where you shop: If you are making a purchase from a website or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first. Look online for reviews of the website or person you are buying from. If you are purchasing an item from an online marketplace, you can view the seller's feedback history before going ahead with the purchase. **Payment method:** Use a payment method that offers buyer protection, such as a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers will help you get your money back if the item is faulty or damaged, or if it never arrives.

Staying secure online: Use a strong, separate password for your email account. Criminals can use your email to access other online accounts, such as those you use for online shopping. You should also enable two-factor authentication (2FA), where possible, which gives your online account additional protection by double checking that you really are the person you claim to be, when logging in. For further information about how to stay secure online, visit www.cyberaware.gov.uk. Gwent police

Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit Public Reporting Tool

<https://www.gov.uk/report-terrorism>

Members of the public can anonymously report any online content that they deem to be illegal or harmful, via the [Public Referral Tool](#). This might consist of, but not be exclusive to, the following:

- Speeches or essays calling for racial or religious violence
- Videos of violence with messages in praise of terrorists
- Postings inciting people to commit acts of terrorism or violent extremism
- Messages intended to stir up hatred against any religious or ethnic group
- Bomb-making instructions
- Advice on how to obtain or make weapons
- Websites made by terrorist or extremist organisations

iReportit App

<https://apps.apple.com/app/id1527456430> (Apple)

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ravenscience.ireportit> (Google Play Store)

<https://ravenscience.com/ireportit/> (Raven Science Website)

iREPORTit is a smartphone app (available on Apple and Play Store) designed to help the public across the UK to report their online concerns regarding the topic of terrorism. It was developed by Raven Science as part of the Mayor's Civic Innovation Challenge, in order to increase the number of public referrals to the CTIRU.

The design uses the smartphone's share button to allow users the ability to report content directly from their smartphone browser or apps on their phone, with minimal effort. As with the CTIRU Public Reporting Tool, is an anonymous form of reporting.

Been a victim of crime? Report it!

Call **999** when in an emergency or when a crime is in progress

Call **101** for non-urgent assistance or report online at [met.police.uk](https://www.met.police.uk):

<https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

Contact your local police team:

https://www.mertonnhw.co.uk/assets/documents/Merton_Ward_Contacts.pdf

To report a crime anonymously call **CrimeStoppers** on **0800 555 111**

If you have been a victim of crime and want support contact **Victim Support** on **0808 168 9111** or visit [victimsupport.org.uk](https://www.victimsupport.org.uk)

Volunteers Needed

Merton Stop and Search Group

Merton Stop & Search Monitoring Group is looking for volunteers to help with their work. This small group tries to help the Metropolitan Police ensure appropriate use of stop and search powers in Merton. This most sensitive power is used approximately 160 times a month in Merton. It's a key power to help keep Merton safe, but it also carries a risk of reducing trust in the police in our communities. The group meets once a month in the evenings at Wimbledon Police Station to look at overall data as well as records of individual searches. Feedback is then provided to police officers and their superiors. A link to published data on the use of stop and search in London is attached <https://www.met.police.uk/stopandsearch>

To join the group you just need to either live or work in the Borough of Merton. Anyone who would like to help with this important work is invited to email lisa.wilson@merton.gov.uk for further information.

Neighbourhood Watch 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.

SAVE THE DATE
MERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
AGM
27TH FEBRUARY 2024 -7PM



Editor's Message

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas and New Year and to thank you for all your support in 2023.

The success of Neighbourhood Watch in Merton is steered by the vision of our Committee members who meet on a 6 weekly basis.

We are keen to recruit more members to the Neighbourhood Watch Committee in 2024. If you have an enthusiastic approach and fresh ideas we are keen to hear from you!

Please email nhw@merton.gov.uk if you would like to find out more information.