

SUMMER 2022

# Merton Neighbourhood Watch



QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE PLUS NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK

Merton Neighbourhood Watch groups celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee during National Neighbourhood Watch Week, which also marked the 40th Anniversary of the Neighbourhood Watch movement. There were so many celebrations that it is impossible to share them all! Above are residents from Erridge Road, Merton Park celebrating, whilst below are pictures from the Garth Close street party which fundraised for St Raphael's Hospice.



## NATIONAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH KNOWLEDGE HUB

[Click here to join the Hub](#)

The National Neighbourhood Watch volunteer support platform provides coordinators, Associations and other Neighbourhood Watch volunteers with:

- support and training for specific volunteer roles
- forums to connect with other volunteers
- crime prevention campaign materials
- access to events
- unique volunteer offers

## COORDINATOR GUIDANCE

Coordinators are the link between communities, local Police teams and Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association. The coordinator role is what you make it: you can have a big impact on your local community but the role should not take too much time.

We send you information on crimes taking place in and around your local area as well as crime prevention tips and regular newsletters. The minimum we ask is that you forward the crime information and advice to your members. But take a look at the [Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator job description](#) for details on what else you may do in your role. Please get in touch with [nhw@merton.gov.uk](mailto:nhw@merton.gov.uk) if you have any questions as we are here to help!

## SUMMER CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

- **Ensure that windows and doors are closed and locked when you are out. Don't leave small windows open believing them to be safe.**
- **If you want to leave windows open while you sleep, fit window restrictors so they cannot be fully opened, or make sure they are not large enough to allow access to a burglar.**
- **When out in your garden ensure that windows and doors to the front of the house are secure. It only takes a second for someone to get into your home and take things without you noticing.**
- **Do not leave valuables on display in front of windows or in reach of open windows or doors.**
- **Ensure that all barbecue and garden equipment and tools are securely locked up in a shed and out of sight. Tools can be used by the potential offender to break in to your home.**
- **Consider fitting outside security lighting or a visible alarm to help deter burglars. Even using pea shingle or gravel on a driveway and spiky plants in garden beds can help.**
- **Don't leave any keys near entry points where they can be 'fished' or 'hooked' out through the window, letter box or cat flap.**
- **Ensure any internal handle operated locks on UPVC doors are fully secured with a key.**

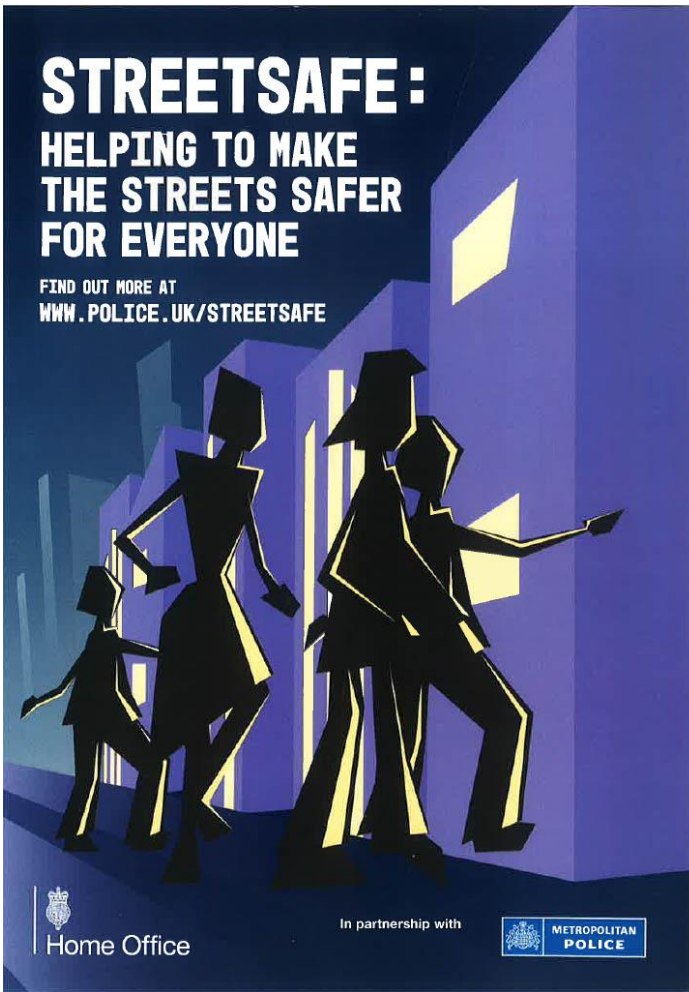
## GOING ON HOLIDAY?

- **Make your home look occupied.**
- **If you're out or going away, ask a trusted neighbour to open and close your curtains for you.**
- **Ask a neighbour if they don't mind parking their car on your driveway and trimming your garden to make your home look occupied.**
- **Cut the front and back lawns before you go away and trim any plants that burglars could hide behind.**
- **Cancel milk and newspaper deliveries.**
- **Before your holiday, don't advertise that you are going away on Facebook, Twitter etc.**

Source: Thames Valley Police

visit: [mertonnhw.co.uk](http://mertonnhw.co.uk) email: [nhw@merton.gov.uk](mailto:nhw@merton.gov.uk) tweet: [@WatchMerton](https://twitter.com/WatchMerton) call: 020 8545 3622





# STREETS SAFE

The StreetSafe website [www.police.uk/streetsafe](http://www.police.uk/streetsafe) allows anyone to record areas where they don't feel safe. This will help police and partner agencies make the streets safer for everyone, particularly women and girls.

You may have felt unsafe due to environmental factors like lack of street lighting, abandoned buildings, vandalism or perhaps you've been followed or verbally abused.

Your information could help police and partner agencies to pinpoint problem areas and make changes which could include installing CCTV, street-lighting or introducing night-time patrols.

Please note: 'StreetSafe' is not for reporting crime or incidents.

To report a crime, please visit [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk) or dial 101. In an emergency, always dial 999.

## NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHES

The Colliers Wood Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) have recently been door-knocking residents to ask if they would like to set up a watch on their road and increase Neighbourhood Watch coverage in their area. Three watches have been set up on Courtney Road, Clarendon Road and Fortescue Road.

A new watch on Buckleigh Avenue was also set up through door-knocking by the Cannon Hill SNT and the West Barnes SNT are in the process of setting up a watch on Blenheim Road.

Please contact [nhw@merton.gov.uk](mailto:nhw@merton.gov.uk) if you are interested in setting up a new watch. We will next be working with the Raynes Park SNT to target roads for canvassing.



## MERTON COUNCIL'S NEW HATE CRIME STRATEGY LAUNCHED

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, Merton Council launched the [2022-26 Hate Crime Strategy](#). Merton continues to take a zero-tolerance approach to this form of crime and uphold the message that the borough is a welcoming place for all. The aims of the new Hate Crime Strategy are as follows:

- ✚ Preventing hate crime
- ✚ Protecting the victim and reducing repeat victimisation
- ✚ Providing suited support to people who have experienced or are supporting victims of hate crime
- ✚ Developing and implementing an integrated, robust, and coordinated approach to tackling suspected perpetrators

During 2021, the borough saw a 5% annual increase in hate crime offences – with four-fifths of them racially motivated – and it is believed that crimes involving groups such as the disabled community are under-reported. Therefore, a key pillar of the new strategy is raising hate crime awareness, so victims have confidence in reporting. **Merton's Hate Crime Advice Surgeries** offer help and support, including with anonymous reporting, and are held over the phone on the **second Tuesday of every month, midday to 1pm - call 020 8545 4146**. Victims of hate crime can also speak confidentially to **Stop Hate UK 24 hours a day, seven days a week for advice and support on reporting a hate crime or incident – call 0800 138 1625, text 'Stop Hate UK' to 07717 989 025, or go [online](#)**.



More information on hate incidents and hate crime can be found [here](#).

## IDAHOBIT 2022

On the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022, Merton marked the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia to highlight support for LGBTQIA+ individuals living in Merton alongside the borough's commitment to diverse and inclusive communities. Dozens of residents, council staff, police officers and councillors turned out for the ceremony recognizing the right to sexual and gender expression free from violence. Councillor Michael Brunt, then Mayor of Merton, expressed the borough's zero tolerance to hate crime, raised the Progress Pride flag and led a minute's silence to remember victims of hate crime due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Councillor Ross Garrod, Council Leader, "urged anyone who experiences a hate crime to come forward and report to police or the other support services available in our borough – not only so they can get advice and support they need, but also so we can take action to try and prevent these instances from happening again." Find out how to report hate crime here: [merton.gov.uk/HateCrime](https://merton.gov.uk/HateCrime)





## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Merton Neighbourhood Watch is currently looking for Committee members and a Met Police Volunteer, in addition to a Newsletter Editor and Twitter Manager. Time commitments are flexible, and we welcome individuals from all backgrounds with a range of skills. Please get in touch with [nhw@merton.gov.uk](mailto:nhw@merton.gov.uk) if you would like to give your time.



### Roger Steele, Chairperson and Treasurer for Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association

#### Tell us about the Merton Neighbourhood Watch Committee!

The committee was formed in 2003 to connect NHW, the Police and Merton Council. At the time there were no Safer Neighbourhood Teams and no Safer Merton, so it was the only means we had to put the views of members directly to the Borough Commander and council officials - and their only input to us. Now we deal with the organisation and funding of NHW, and I have a seat on the Safer Neighbourhood Board where the wider issues are discussed.

#### Why did you volunteer to be the Chairperson?

I had been on the committee from the start and had been treasurer for over ten years. The system works well with the chair driving things forward and the treasurer juggling the books to finance everything. When our Chair resigned due to relocation, we had senior members with health issues and newer members who did not feel ready to step up - so here I am!

#### What does a Committee role involve and how much time does it take?

We meet every six weeks and the meeting lasts about an hour, and that is the minimum commitment. We have a stall at the Carnival every year and need volunteers to attend to answer queries and sign up new members, we have a small team doing Junior NHW in local schools and assistance is always welcome. The short answer is that it takes up as much time as you are happy to put in.

#### Lastly, what do you enjoy most about working with the Merton NHW Committee?

When I joined we were a small NHW in the 7th safest borough in London, now we are one of the largest and in the 3rd safest borough! We are good at what we do and our efforts are appreciated by the Police and our Community. What's not to enjoy!

### Janet Sherington, MET Police Volunteer

#### Why did you decide to become a Met Police volunteer?

I decided to become a Met Police Volunteer as my children had grown up and I was no longer needed to do the school runs etc and I found myself with time on my hands and thought it would be nice to give back to the community.

#### How do you help Merton NHW and how much time do you spend volunteering?

My role over the years has changed, especially during the pandemic, but my main role is to sanitise the crime figures and put them into their relevant wards and prepare them for distribution for those who require them by post. I make up members packs and attend and help at the AGM and other events where possible to help promote Neighbourhood Watch. Since the pandemic I spend one day a month in the office, usually between 10am and 4pm depending on what needs to be done.



#### Finally, what do you enjoy most about your role and would you recommend becoming a Met Police volunteer?

I have been volunteering at NHW for 10 years. What I enjoy most about my role is feeling that I have helped and made a difference. I am so pleased that I took the opportunity as I have made new friends that I otherwise would never have met and would definitely recommend if someone has time on their hands and wants to be part of their community don't hesitate.

visit: [mertonnhw.co.uk](http://mertonnhw.co.uk) email: [nhw@merton.gov.uk](mailto:nhw@merton.gov.uk) tweet: [@WatchMerton](https://twitter.com/WatchMerton) call: 020 8545 3622