In the whole year of 2004, it was reported that 20 youths had died as a result of knife attacks in the United Kingdom.

In June 2007, in London alone, six youths had lost their lives as a result of fatal knife stabbings.

Fatal knife stabbings are now running higher than those in New York.

Within the London Boroughs there has been a total of 21 fatal knife and gun killings. Recent evidence highlighted that a third of youths would carry a knife due to the fear of crime and for protection. This is also evident of the youth gang culture that is being witnessed within the London Boroughs.

The Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association says...

THE KILLING MUST END NOW

The full weight of the Merton NHW Association, its NHW coordinators and members are urged to stand up in the fight to stop this madness that is constantly making the headlines in the news.

To all our NHW members, assist your Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) to bring this knife and gun culture to an end, and stop all this pointless bloodshed that is robbing this once great, law-abiding capital of its youth.

If you know of anyone that has committed or is about to commit a knife or gun crime, then please report it to your local Police station, or to your SNT.

You can also report crimes online to www.online.police.uk or in confidence and anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111
Merton monitors Stop & Search

Many Merton residents know that Stop & Search and Stop & Account is being carried out by the Police, are you aware that the data produced by them is monitored?

The Merton Borough Recommendation 61 Community Monitoring Group is independent of the police except for the provision of data. Its members are from various diverse backgrounds and it has been running for about one year.

The group analyse data on all aspects of Stop & Search and Stop & Account for ethnicity, age, reason, residency status and arrest rates. They get to question the police on their findings and can also make recommendations to them which can include training and record keeping.

If any organisation, especially youth groups, would like to know more about their rights regarding Stop & Search and Stop & Account, the Recommendation 61 Community Monitoring Group are prepared to give presentations around the Borough.

Please contact Christine Matthews, Chairperson, at EcMatthews@aol.com or phone 020 8942-3491.

NHW street sign gets approval

Merton NHW Association have designed a new style NHW street sign. Approval has been granted for the installation of these signs within the Borough.

These will replace any old or damaged signs, followed by requests from the Boroughs NHW coordinators.

If you require a new NHW street sign, please contact the NHW Office.

Christmas Crime Initiative

The Christmas Crime Initiative incorporated plain-clothes operations and uniform policing across Merton. During the period of 13th-24th December, officers from the Crime Squad, Task Force and the Safer Transport Police Community Support Officers were deployed in various ways across the Borough.

Of the arrests that were made a number were for burglary, handling stolen goods and drug supplying. Teams were deployed on early morning raids, late night public order patrols and high visibility patrols around town centres including licensing visits and a knife arch operation at Wimbledon Station.

Inspector Fowles the officer in charge of tactics said, "Once again the increased police presence during the build up to Christmas had an impact on the community by reducing crime and making local people feel safe". A Total of 22 arrests, 68 Stop and Search, 91 Stop and Accounts, 10 stops under the terrorism act and 5 warrants were executed.

Register at IMMOLISE.COM

Remember to register and protect all those new goodies that you and your family received this festive season.

Immobilise.com is a website that allows you to register items such as Mobile phones, MP3 players, Bicycles, Satellite Navigation Kits, Cameras and Laptops.

Registering means that if that item is lost or stolen and later recovered by the police you have a greater chance of it being returned to you.

Immobilise UK account users can record any registered item as lost or stolen and this appears on the Police National Stolen Equipment Database.

If the item is a mobile phone don't forget to also report it to your mobile network so they can block the SIM card and the IMEI number.

Registering is free and only takes a few minutes. You can register as many items as you want at www.immobilise.com.

Anti Theft Number Plate Bolts

by George Georgiou

"More than 40,000 sets of number plates were stolen in 2006, as car cloning continues to soar, a rise of almost 25%, according to police estimates"*

Number plate theft is on the increase as they are often used on stolen vehicles to commit crime, or to beat the Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system that is used in London’s congestion charging zone, speed cameras and parking tickets.

Don't let it happen to you.

Merton has also seen an increase in this fairly new crime and whilst we have encouraged you in the past to change your number plate screws to clutch screws, and thief proof plates that shatter when tampered with (but cost twice the price of normal plates), there is another product on the market that I recently purchased. This consists of a set of anti-theft number plate screws from a company called Richbrook, and have installed them on both of our family cars.

The screws are similar to a normal household screw albeit they have to be screwed on the car bodywork using a special tool and a locking tool, making the number plate virtually non removable without the special locking tool provided.

You can buy the bolts online using www.richbrook.co.uk and clicking on the buy online link or telephoning Richbrook on 01328 862 387

* Source BBC News
Neighbourhood Watch member finds cannabis factory
by Lee Roberts, NHW Manager

In July 2007, staff from Merton Neighbourhood Watch received anonymous intelligence from a member of a newly formed Neighbourhood Watch suggesting activity at an address in Grasmere Avenue appeared to be suspicious. The Merton NHW manager immediately passed the information on to the local police team.

On arrival, Merton Park SN Team officers believed that the premises were being used for the production of cannabis and forced entry to the unoccupied address.

Factory Discovered
An established cannabis factory was found, with both floors of the house involved in production. Approximately 250 mature plants were discovered, with further dried plants also present.

Sergeant Ian Harman said “It is the actions of local people that are so important in reducing all manner of crime. Without the eyes and ears of the community the police would face an impossible task.

The diligence of the informant and their community spirit is excellent. The work of Neighbourhood Watch goes unnoticed in the main. It is this individuals efforts linking in with the Association and its partnership with the police that is so very important.

May I take this opportunity to thank all members and co-ordinators. Your work is invaluable.”

Women’s Self Protection Training
by Lee Roberts, NHW Manager

During March and April 2007 over 40 women learnt various techniques regarding women’s self-protection. The free self-defence training organised by Merton Neighbourhood Watch was a fantastic success.

Put to the test
It certainly paid dividends for one attendee who only after a week of training put her newly found skills to the test in an incident at a supermarket. Unfortunately the man was not detained by the store security but was spotted a week later and arrested.

I would like to thank all the ladies who attended for being such good participants. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Inspector Chris Fowles who was “such a brilliant trainer” and a hit with the ladies!

Beat the Bogus Callers!
by PC Greg Hunt, Crime Prevention Officer

Christmas saw a slight increase in distraction burglars and bogus callers. These are people who will come to your door pretending to be tradesmen or asking for help; then when your attention is elsewhere, they try and take money or small, expensive items from your home.

Luckily there are relatively few cases in Merton, however it is worth being aware of some of the telltale signs:

• Ask all callers for proof of identity. Genuine tradesmen should carry an identification card with their photograph on. Check this carefully. If you are unsure, telephone the company the caller claims to represent.

• Wait for them to tell you what job they’ve come to do. Try not to ask them questions such as ‘Are you from the gas board?’

• If someone does come to your door and you’re not convinced that they are legitimate, don’t be afraid to contact the police, either on 999 or on 020 8947 1212

Focus on Crime
Merton welcomes the new cop on the block

Chris Bourlet joined Merton Borough as the new Borough Commander in June this year taking over from Michael Wood who has moved on to head the Central Communications Command, which manages the Met’s central control rooms.

Mr Bourlet arrived at Merton having recently served as the Superintendent Operations and Partnership at Croydon.

Prior to that he was the head of Child Protection operations dealing with child abuse investigation. He headed Project Violet, which investigated belief related child abuse and won the Met’s Diversity Award in 2006.

He also developed the Met’s response to children abused through sexual exploitation, which led to the formation of one of the first multi-agency teams dealing with sexual exploitation in Croydon earlier this year.

His early career covered a variety of uniform and detective roles at Bromley, Southwark and Lewisham before he moved to New Scotland Yard and then to the Directorate of Professional Standards investigating serious public complaints and deaths in custody. On joining Merton Chris said, “I feel honoured and privileged to be at Merton. This is a great Borough to live and work in. We have an excellent police team which

Borough Commander, Chris Bourlet has made Merton one of the safest Boroughs in London. I am totally dedicated to continuing to reduce crime and make people feel even safer.” He went on to say, “When at University in the 1980s I examined the concept of Neighbourhood Watch as part of my studies.

I was completely in support of the scheme then and I believe the schemes are even more relevant today, particularly with the arrival of Safer Neighbourhoods Teams. The link between Neighbourhood Watch and the Teams is something I would like to strengthen further.”
Ward contact details
If you would like to find out who the officers in your ward are, please use the relevant details listed below.

Morden Sector
Cannon Hill
Tel: 020 8721 2455
E-mail: Cannonhill.snt@met.police.uk

Lower Morden
Tel: 020 8721 2456
E-mail: LowerMorden.snt@met.police.uk

Merton Park
Tel: 020 8721 2451
E-mail: MertonPark.snt@met.police.uk

Ravensbury
Tel: 020 8721 2725
E-mail: Ravensbury.snt@met.police.uk

St. Helier
Tel: 020 8649 3575
E-mail: MertonStHelier.snt@met.police.uk

West Barnes
Tel: 020 8721 2454
E-mail: WestBarnes.snt@met.police.uk

Wimbledon Sector
Abbe
Tel: 020 8649 3584
E-mail: Abbey@met.police.uk

Dundonald
Tel: 020 8721 2450
E-mail: Dundonald.snt@met.police.uk

Hillside
Tel: 020 8721 2458
E-mail: Hillside.snt@met.police.uk

Raynes Park
Tel: 020 8721 2459
E-mail: RaynesPark.snt@met.police.uk

Trinity
Tel: 020 8721 2453
E-mail: Trinity.snt@met.police.uk

Wimbledon Park
Tel: 020 8721 2452
E-mail: WimbledonPark.snt@met.police.uk

Wimbledon Village
Tel: 020 8721 2457
E-mail: Village.snt@met.police.uk

Mitcham Sector
Colliers Wood
Tel: 020 8721 2743
E-mail: ColliersWood.snt@met.police.uk

Cricket Green
Tel: 020 8649 3576
E-mail: CricketGreen.snt@met.police.uk

Figges Marsh
Tel: 020 8649 3603
E-mail: FiggesMarsh.snt@met.police.uk

Graveney
Tel: 020 8721 2724
E-mail: MertonGraveney.snt@met.police.uk

Lavender Fields
Tel: 020 8721 2744
E-mail: LavenderFields.snt@met.police.uk

Longthornton
Tel: 020 8721 2742
E-mail: Longthornton.snt@met.police.uk

Pollards Hill
Tel: 020 8649 3604
E-mail: Pollards.snt@met.police.uk

For further information on your local Safer Neighbourhoods visit:
www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

Calling all Neighbourhood Watch Members!
Merton NHW Association is currently on the look out for interested members to join their Committee. They would welcome applications from any member, and are keen to hear from you.

If you are interested, then why not come to our next Association meeting
For more details please contact
Lee Roberts, NHW Manager
020 8649 3213

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NHW Manager on
020 8649 3213

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