



Merton Neighbourhood Watch

Autumn 2021

Keep Safe During Autumn Nights

As the nights get darker, the season of autumn traditionally sees a rise in burglaries, thefts and anti-social behaviour.

Keep your home and property safe

- Lock all doors and windows, and ensure any PVCu doors are locked properly by lifting the handle and using the key to double-lock them.
- Consider installing a door bell camera, internal camera and/or monitored burglar alarm.
- Install 'dusk to dawn' external lighting and use timer switches in your home to control internal lights, radios and a simulated TV.
- Keep keys and valuables secure and out of sight.
- Ensure boundary fences are secure with side gates locked. Keep tools and ladders in a locked shed.
- Secure bins at night and put garden furniture away for the winter as these can be used by burglars as climbing aids to gain access to upper floor windows.

- Ensure your vehicle is locked and remove all valuables as burglars often check to see if doors are left unlocked.

Source: Hertfordshire Constabulary



Keep yourself safe

Be prepared

- Plan your route in advance. Carry a charged mobile phone and some cash, and tell someone where you're going.

Be assertive

- From the moment you step out onto the street in the morning, look assertive and act and walk with confidence. This will always make you appear in control and much less vulnerable.

Be aware

- Using a mobile phone, whether making a call or texting, wearing a hood or listening to loud music, all affect your awareness of your surroundings.

Hide it

- Keep your valuables including your mobile phone, other devices and jewellery, hidden. Remember, out of sight, out of mind.

Go against the flow

- When walking on the pavement, always face oncoming traffic, as it will make it far more difficult for thieves on two wheelers to ride up from behind and snatch your property. But still also be aware of anyone approaching from ahead of you.

Trust your instincts

- Try to avoid walking alone at night in places such as parks and side streets or any unfamiliar environment. If you do have to walk, stick to busy places where a lot of activity, CCTV and good lighting is.

Make a plan

- And stick to it. First off, discuss with friends what to do if something were to go wrong on your night out together, e.g. if one of you has too much to drink or you were to get separated. Agree on a backup plan and look out for one another.

Be vigilant

- Alcohol and drugs will reduce reaction times and inhibitions, which makes it harder to assess risks and decide how to deal with them. So keep an eye on how much you drink and never let your glass or bottle out of your sight.

Safety in numbers

- Try to travel with people you know and, where possible, stick to routes and forms of transport that others are using and avoid shortcuts in lonely places.

Source: Met Police

Not everybody enjoys Halloween.

If you would like to download a poster for your door letting Trick or Treaters know to stay away, please visit our website:

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





Cyber Security Month

October is Cyber Security Month. The **National Neighbourhood Watch Association** have teamed up with Avast to create the **UK Cyberhood Watch** initiative.

From phishing, to viruses, to ransomware, this community-led awareness programme looks at the impact cybercrime can have on our everyday lives, and provides simple tips on the steps we can take to protect ourselves, our friends and family, and our local community.

Go to <https://www.avast.com/uk-cyberhood#pc> to see their Cyberhood Watch Toolkit, including guides on how to adjust your privacy settings on social media and how to protect your children online.



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association AGM 2021

Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association's AGM traditionally takes place each year in November.

Last year due to Covid-19 restrictions we held our AGM online.

This year, restrictions pending, we hope to be able to hold the AGM in person in the spring of 2022, with talks from the Police and London Fire Brigade. A date for your diary will be circulated once confirmed.

Did you know? It's easy to help protect your mobile phone

Immoblise.com is the UK's national property register.

It's easy to register your mobile phone on the database, increasing the chances of it being reunited with you if it is lost or stolen.

Find your IMEI number by typing *#06# into your phone keypad and it will display a 15-digit number. Use this and other details such as the phone make, model and description to register your phone.

Go to: [Register a Mobile Phone \(immobilise.com\)](https://www.immobilise.com)

**92% OF BRITS SAY 'YES'
TO AVOID SEEMING RUDE
BY SAYING 'NO'**

If someone contacts you for
your personal or financial info:
Stop, Challenge, Protect!

STOP. CHALLENGE. PROTECT.



Interview with PC Nad Sahebally, Wimbledon Village Safer Neighbourhood Team and Merton Neighbourhood Watch Lead

Tell us about your role

I am a dedicated ward officer currently based at Wimbledon Village Safer Neighbourhood Team and the Neighbourhood Watch lead for the police on the Merton borough. I currently work with a small group of officers, working with the community and local agencies to tackle issues arising on the ward. We patrol the ward to be a visible police presence to reduce crime and assist with ongoing investigations.

I have worked for the Metropolitan Police for the last ten years, starting as a Detention Officer then transferring into a serving Police Constable for the last seven years. I have had some memorable moments in this job and I have dealt with a large variety of situations, ranging from your general low level crimes to public order situations, such as protests. I would say that one of the best aspects of this job is having the opportunity to learn new skills and adapting them to real life situations. Personally, the downside is the paperwork which can be time consuming, however a necessity.

Prior to becoming the Neighbourhood Watch lead, I must admit that I had very little knowledge of the scheme back in 2019. I was fortunate enough that Merton Neighbourhood Watch is very well run by the local council and I have since learnt and acknowledge the importance of the scheme.

I hope to be a key part of Neighbourhood Watch and I have been attending the committee meetings and previous AGMs and plan on continuing to improve the relationship between the Neighbourhood Watch Association and the police.

Why is Neighbourhood Watch important?

Neighbourhood Watch helps connect neighbours, communities and organisations. Neighbourhood Watch can be hugely beneficial to you and your neighbours as every community is different and therefore every community has their own specific

priorities and problems. The Neighbourhood Watch Association is connected with many organisations that provide excellent information and guidance to their members, such as cybercrime and fraud.

With advancing technology and the majority of people embracing new ways of working and socialising, there are still members of the public that have been left behind, such as the vulnerable and elderly - especially during the pandemic. Neighbourhood Watch is a brilliant way of bridging that gap to show that people do care and are willing to help.

By sharing information such as the crime figures for your area and crime prevention advice with your neighbours via email, text message or simply word of mouth, it can help people to be aware of the most prominent crimes and how to protect themselves.

A strong community is a connected community.

How can Neighbourhood Watch coordinators and members assist the police?

Information is crucial.

London's population is slowly reaching 9.5 million residents and the Metropolitan Police have roughly 43,000 officers and staff. It simply is not always possible for an officer to be in an area where there is crime or anti-social behaviour. The information and intelligence that is provided by members of public has been and will continue to be of extreme value.

Help us to help you.

What's the best way for Neighbourhood Watch coordinators to link in with their local police team if they don't know them already?

The local policing teams work shifts and are not covered 24/7. Therefore the best way to contact your local team is to send an email. To find out what team covers your area and how to make contact, please use the Metropolitan Police website www.met.police.uk (please also see list on page 5).

Alternatively contact 101 for non-emergency calls.

Always use 999 for emergencies.

I am experiencing anti-social behaviour in my area, who do I need to contact?

Your local policing team are available to assist with anti-social behaviour or are able to direct you to an agency depending on the type of complaint.

Merton Council, Environmental Health and Trading Standards are just some of the other agencies available to help.

If you reside in a Housing Association property, they will have a complaints department that can assist you.

If you think the anti-social behaviour is crime related, then please make contact with police via 101 or 999 if it requires immediate attention.

Bike marking – coming soon

Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association are delighted to announce that we have been successful in bidding for funding from MOPAC (Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime) to replenish Merton's stock of bike marking kits.

There has been an uptake in cycling and an increase in bike thefts during the pandemic, with pedal bike thefts in Merton up by 9%.

Bike marking kits permanently mark the bike frame with a unique BikeRegister ID and provide a tamper proof label. This will help the police to identify and verify the legitimate owner of bikes that have been stolen. The marking of bikes not only helps to tackle bike theft but also residential burglary as bikes are often targeted.

We will be working with the police Safer Neighbourhood Teams to hold bike marking events in Morden, Mitcham and Wimbledon town centres over coming months.

More information will be circulated in due course.

Looking for your Neighbourhood Policing Team?	Abbey	Cannon Hill	Colliers Wood	Cricket Green	Dundonald	Figges Marsh
	Abbey@met.police.uk 0208 649 3584 @MPSAbbeyVW	CannonHill@met.police.uk 0208 721 2455 @MPS CannonHill	ColliersWood@met.police.uk 0208 721 2743 @MPS ColliersWood	CricketGreen@met.police.uk 0208 649 3576 @MPS CricketGreen	Dundonald@met.police.uk 0208 721 2450 @MPS Dundonald	FiggesMarsh@met.police.uk 0208 649 3603 @MPS FiggesMarsh
Graveney	Hillside	Lavender Fields	Longthornton	Lower Morden	Merton Park	Pollards Hill
GraveneyVW@met.police.uk 0208 721 2724 @MPS GraveneyVW	Hillside@met.police.uk 0208 721 2458 @MPS Hillside	LavenderFields@met.police.uk 0208 721 2744 @MPS LavenderFids	Longthornton@met.police.uk 0208 721 2742 @MPS Longthornton	LowerMorden@met.police.uk 0208 721 2456 @MPS LowerMorden	MertonPark@met.police.uk 07920233908 @MPS MertonPark	Pollards@met.police.uk 0208 649 3604 @MPS PollardsHill
Ravensbury	Raynes Park	St Helier	Trinity	Village	West Barnes	Wimbledon Park
Ravensbury@met.police.uk 07768178387 @MPS Ravensbury	RaynesPark@met.police.uk 0208 721 2459 @MPS RaynesPark	StHelier@met.police.uk 07843065908 @MPS StHelierVW	Trinity@met.police.uk 0208 721 2453 @MPS Trinity	WimbledonVillage@met.police.uk 0208 721 2452 @MPS VillageVW	WestBarnes@met.police.uk 0208 721 2454 @MPS WestBarnes	WimbledonPark@met.police.uk 0208 721 2452 @MPS WimbledonPk



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Merton