

SPRING 2022

# Merton Neighbourhood Watch



## KEEP SAFE THIS SPRING

Spring has sprung and the warmer weather is encouraging us to get out and about in Merton. As the seasons change, take a moment to think about protect yourself and your valuables. Here are some top tips:

1. Install a burglar alarm system and outside security lights
2. Close windows and doors when exiting ground floor rooms
3. Add gravel to driveways and paths
4. Remember to securely lock garage doors. A) Metal 'up and over' doors - can be secured with extra locks fitted either side and/or a floor-mounted locking 'T' bar with a closed shackle padlock. B) Wooden garage doors - can be secured with two substantial 'hasps and staple' locks and closed shackle padlocks
5. Secure rear gardens by keeping entry gates padlocked at all times
6. Securely lock away garden tools and don't leave ladders accessible
7. Always secure sheds with an alarmed padlock or, preferably, two 'hasp and staple' locks
8. Keep a low front boundary (under 1m) but secure high side and rear hedge, wall and fence boundaries with trellis and spiky plants

Please see [the Metropolitan Police](#) for more detailed crime prevention advice

## Call for Volunteers

Please get in touch with [nhw@merton.gov.uk](mailto: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.

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



## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MOVEMENT AND QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

2022 is a special year for the National Neighbourhood Watch movement as it celebrates 40 years since the first Neighbourhood Watch group was formed in the UK in 1982. Neighbourhood Watch has since grown to be the largest crime prevention charity in England and Wales with an army of dedicated volunteers. In Merton the scheme was established formally in 2003.

National Neighbourhood Watch week also falls within the same week as celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee **30th May – 5th June 2022**.

We would love to hear if any of our Neighbourhood Watches are celebrating the occasion with a street party. Please email [nhw@merton.gov.uk](mailto:nhw@merton.gov.uk) with any information or photos from the day.

To find out how to arrange a street party in your area: [Apply to hold a street event | Merton Council](#)

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH BIKE MARKING PROJECT

Merton Neighbourhood Watch were pleased to secure funding 2021-2022 from the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime to purchase a supply of bike marking kits for the Safer Neighbourhood Teams. This was in response to the uptake in cycling and increase in bike thefts during the pandemic.

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 early part of the year saw bike marking events in Wimbledon Park and outside Colliers Wood tube station. This was followed by events in Morden Hall Garden Centre and Morden Leisure Centre. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams also joined in on four-day events held in Wimbledon and Mitcham town centres by the southwest BCU Outreach team.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021/22

We were delighted by the attendance at our Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 30th March 2022. After the Chair's report, Chief Inspector Chris Scammell from the South West Basic Command Unit provided an update on crime figures and Alexa Loukas from CrimeStoppers was our guest speaker. Overall, it was lovely to see so many faces, discuss progress made and plan for the upcoming year.



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## INTRODUCING CRIMESTOPPERS

In London last year members of the general public who contacted Crimestoppers helped to solve or prevent over 1,176 crimes in their communities.

Crimestoppers is an independent charity helping communities to Speak Up and Stay Safe 100% anonymously. They believe everyone has the right to feel safe from crime, wherever they live and have kept their vital guarantee of anonymity since they formed in 1988.

Fearless, the youth service of the charity, are working with Merton's Community Safety Partnership to raise awareness of their anonymous reporting service to help prevent and reduce crime in the borough.

Every day over a thousand people trust their service to pass on information about crime via

their 24-hour UK Contact Centre on freephone 0800 555 1111 or by filling in a simple and secure non-traceable online form at [Crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org).

But we can do so much more in Merton and we're asking for your help to spread the word about the service we provide. Why not tell 2 or 3 of your friends and family about Crimestoppers or our youth service Fearless? Or visit our websites [www.crimestoppers-uk.org](https://www.crimestoppers-uk.org) and [www.fearless.org](https://www.fearless.org) to find out more about how you can report crime.

Crimestoppers also offer advice and information on keeping safe, spotting the signs of different crimes types and the type of information that is useful when reporting crime.

You'll be playing a part in helping to keep Merton safe and protecting the people, places and communities that matter to you.



You can Report all forms of Hate Crime in the London Borough of **MERTON** to Stop Hate UK on: **0800 138 1625**

[www.stophateuk.org/report-hate-crime/](https://www.stophateuk.org/report-hate-crime/) for more information and other ways to report



## GOOD NEWS STORY – VILLAGE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

The Village Safer Neighbourhood Team have introduced a Faraday Bag Scheme due to a rise in keyless motor vehicle thefts.

*'We managed to get a budget agreed to order and purchase some faraday bags. These are then provided to our residents with keyless vehicles. We have been patrolling the area and if we see a keyless vehicle on a driveway, we knock and provide the owner with one of these signal blocking pouches in order to prevent their car being stolen. We recently had a keyless car theft on Newstead Way and after speaking to their Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator, we managed to utilise a WhatsApp group of residents to spread the word about our faraday bags. This led to an additional 24 addresses on Somerset Road and Newstead Way being given signal blocking pouches.'*

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## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

A scam, or personal fraud, is a type of crime where perpetrators attempt to steal money from unsuspecting victims, especially via online shopping, personal banking and investments.

Scammers attempt to connect with us on a personal level, often provide proof that everyone is doing what they have asked, and imply they are doing us a favour. It is easy to fall victim to urgent appeals that demand increasingly more commitment from you.

You can prevent scams by following key 3 steps:

1. **STOP** – before disclosing personal and/or financial information
2. **CHALLENGE** – requests that don't **FEEL, SEEM, LOOK** or **SOUND** right
3. **PROTECT** – yourself and others if you think that you have been caught out by a scam. Contact your bank and report the scam to [Action Fraud](https://www.actionfraud.org.uk/).

Adapted from [Neighbourhood Watch](https://www.neighbourhoodwatch.org.uk/)

### Merton Neighbourhood Watch Scams Talk

On Thursday 10th February 2022 we were pleased to be joined by Merton Council Trading Standards and the Cannon Hill Safer Neighbourhood Team for an online talk 'Stop Being Scammed!' on how to avoid being a victim of the most common forms of fraud.

There has sadly been an increase in scams during the pandemic so it is important to be informed on how to protect yourself and friends and family. It is estimated that only 20% of scams are reported.

### REMEMBER:

**Report an email you think is a scam** - if you have received an email which you're not quite sure about, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

**Report a text message you think is a scam** - forwarding it to 7726. If you forward a text to 7726, your provider can investigate the origin of the text and arrange to block or ban the sender if it's found to be malicious.

**Report a suspicious phone call** - visit [Action Fraud](https://www.actionfraud.org.uk/) or call 0300 123 2040.



Looking for your Neighbourhood Policing Team?	<b>Abbey</b> Abbey@met.police.uk 0208 649 3584 @MPSAbbeyVW	<b>Cannon Hill</b> CannonHill@met.police.uk 0208 721 2455 @MPS CannonHill	<b>Colliers Wood</b> ColliersWood@met.police.uk 0208 721 2743 @MPS ColliersWood	<b>Cricket Green</b> CricketGreen@met.police.uk 0208 649 3576 @MPS CricketGreen	<b>Dundonald</b> Dundonald@met.police.uk 0208 721 2450 @MPS Dundonald	<b>Figges Marsh</b> FiggesMarsh@met.police.uk 0208 649 3603 @MPS FiggesMarsh
<b>Graveney</b> GraveneyVW@met.police.uk 0208 721 2724 @MPS GraveneyVW	<b>Hillside</b> Hillside@met.police.uk 0208 721 2458 @MPS Hillside	<b>Lavender Fields</b> LavenderFields@met.police.uk 0208 721 2744 @MPS LavenderFields	<b>Longthornton</b> Longthornton@met.police.uk 0208 721 2742 @MPS Longthornton	<b>Lower Morden</b> LowerMorden@met.police.uk 0208 721 2456 @MPS LowerMorden	<b>Merton Park</b> MertonPark@met.police.uk 07920233908 @MPS MertonPark	<b>Pollards Hill</b> Pollards@met.police.uk 0208 649 3604 @MPS PollardsHill
<b>Ravensbury</b> Ravensbury@met.police.uk 07768178387 @MPS Ravensbury	<b>Raynes Park</b> RaynesPark@met.police.uk 0208 721 2459 @MPS RaynesPark	<b>St Helier</b> StHelier@met.police.uk 07843065908 @MPS StHelierVW	<b>Trinity</b> Trinity@met.police.uk 0208 721 2453 @MPS Trinity	<b>Village</b> WimbledonVillage@met.police.uk 02087212452 @MPS VillageVW	<b>West Barnes</b> WestBarnes@met.police.uk 0208 721 2454 @MPS WestBarnes	<b>Wimbledon Park</b> WimbledonPark@met.police.uk 0208 721 2452 @MPS WimbledonPk



Merton



# Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Statement

**Ensuring the safety and security of all people across  
England and Wales are at the heart of Neighbourhood Watch.**

We support a society where everyone feels safe where they live and work, and in public spaces. We want everyone to be treated fairly, taking account of their individual needs. We want to see everyone free from discrimination because of race, religion and belief, disability, sex, sexual orientation, age, pregnancy, marriage and civil partnership, or gender reassignment.

We promote a culture of respect and dignity and do not tolerate unfair discrimination in any form within our diverse movement. We actively challenge unfairness, intolerance and harassment.

We are guided by our values. We know that being a diverse movement and ensuring our activity and communications are accessible, inclusive, and relevant will help us make a difference for all our communities and individuals.

We want to attract, develop and retain volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. We want to reach supporters from a broader section of the community and engage with and represent diverse individuals and groups.

We will learn from different perspectives and experiences and remove barriers to inclusion. We will do this through recruitment, training, development, and support for our staff, volunteers, and trustees. We will demonstrate the principles of diversity, equality, inclusion, and compliance with the Equality Act 2010 in our roles, policies, and functions.

**NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK IS A CHARITY REGISTERED  
IN ENGLAND & WALES, CIO NO: 1173349**

LAST UPDATED: FEBRUARY 2022