



Merton Neighbourhood Watch

WINTER 2021

Have a safe and happy Christmas

- Don't leave presents under your Christmas tree if they are visible from windows or doors.
- Never keep large amounts of cash at home.
- Make sure you keep your doors and windows locked at all times.
- Keys should always be kept out of sight and not left in doors or in view of windows.
- Make your house look occupied, use a timer switch to operate lamps as it starts to get dark, leave a radio on.
- Don't open the door to anybody you don't recognise. Not sure? Don't open the door!

After you have opened your Christmas gifts

Burglars and robbers know that many households have new and often expensive, items in their homes following the December holidays especially items such as new tech such as tablets or laptops, mobile phones, music systems, televisions, cameras and other electronic equipment. In many cases, residents make it easy for burglars to figure out which homes to target by putting boxes that identify their new gifts in plain view with their other rubbish.

Avoid becoming an easy target for post-holiday burglars/robbers by not leaving boxes for new electronics and other items outside your wheelie bin.

- Break down any boxes you are throwing out and put them in rubbish bags and place them inside the wheelie bin.
- With computer equipment, you might consider keeping the boxes for safe storage, shipping or moving in the future. Would they be useful as storage boxes?
- Think about keeping broken-down boxes inside in a garage or loft.
- Register your property securely and free of charge on the national property marking database www.immobilise.com

Source: Nottinghamshire Police



Seasons Greetings from Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association

As we reach the end of 2021 and the new covid variant causes increasing concern, we can reflect on what has been another difficult but productive year.

We started the year with our AGM. Holding it online meant it was a very different format to what we are used to but it was still good to see a large attendance of coordinators. This was followed by an online scams talk in partnership with Trading Standards, in response to the large increase in scams during the pandemic.

The lifting of restrictions meant that door knocking by the police teams could be resumed and I am pleased to see a number of new watches are in the process of being set up.

We were also pleased to be successful in our bid for Safer Neighbourhood Board funding to replenish Merton's stock of bike marking kits. We look forward to the bike marking events taking place around the borough in the coming months.

I would like to thank all our coordinators and members for your continued support and the work you do for your communities, and wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas. I look forward to hopefully seeing you in person at an event in 2022.

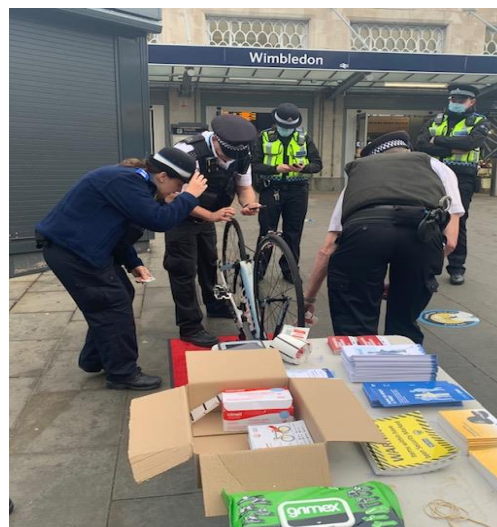
Roger Steele, Chair of Merton Neighbourhood Watch Association

Bike marking events

The first of the bike marking events lead by Merton Neighbourhood Watch took place outside Wimbledon Station on 14th December 2021.

Officers from the Wimbledon Safer Neighbourhood Teams and British Transport Police were in attendance to security mark bikes free of charge. 58 bikes were marked and residents were also given information on crime prevention and Neighbourhood Watch.

Further events will be taking place in the new year, including in Morden and Mitcham town centres - watch out for the details which will be circulated in due course.





Stop Hate UK Helpline launches in Merton

A new 24/7 telephone helpline is being launched in Merton for all those who are directly affected by or a witness to Hate Crime, to report incidents and receive help, support, advice and guidance.

The new helpline, which will be operated by Stop Hate UK – a national charity that provides independent and confidential support to people who are affected by all forms of Hate Crime - launched to coincide with International Day of Disability, on 3rd December 2021.

The Stop Hate Line is open 24 hours a day, every day of the year on **0800 138 1625**. The helpline is also available by **text message on 07717 989 025** and by email to talk@stophateuk.org.

STOP HATE UK
0800 138 1625
24 HOUR HELP LINE

Representatives from Merton Council supporting the '16 days' campaign.

Merton Council supports '16 Days to end violence against women' campaign

25th November - 10th December marks the campaign '16 days to end violence against women.' The campaign asks people in their communities, organisations and workplaces, to come together, and say 'no' to violence against women. And here in Merton, we fully support this campaign.

#AllMenCan is the leading message this year. It was developed for the campaign in March when the murder of Sarah Everard brought women's experience of men's violence to the forefront of everyone's minds. It also opened up so many conversations about men taking action and making a stand.

Support for those experiencing domestic violence and abuse:

- **Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA): 020 7801 1777**
- **Victim Support: 0808 168 9111**
- **Legal advice relating to domestic abuse: 020 8543 3302 or 020 8767 2777**
- **Refuge: 0808 2000 247**
- **RASASC (if you have experienced any kind of sexual violence): 0808 802 9999**



Interview with Neighbourhoods Inspector Sarah Dobinson

Tell us about your role

I'm privileged to be the Neighbourhoods Inspector for Merton, leading the 20 ward teams across the borough. I am also public order trained so you may also see me at football matches and protests across London.

What are the best and most challenging aspects of the job?

Working alongside partner agencies, elected members of the local authority and parliament and community members gives a real sense of achievement, as through working together we are able to take a longer term approach to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, which makes a real difference.

The demand is huge, as the opportunities to make a difference have to be balanced with reacting to the most critical and immediate issue at hand. Balancing my time between these two asks is challenging and relies on good working relationships with my policing counterparts and my partners in public service.

I rely on an amazing team of police officers and PCSOs who work tirelessly to serve their local wards in preventing crime and catching criminals. Leading these teams is a privilege and I get huge satisfaction in supporting them to not only achieve great service for the public but also helping them be the best version of themselves in serving the Metropolitan Police Service, where we value people and help them thrive.

What are the top priorities for policing in Merton?

My top priorities are to reduce harm and increase the confidence in policing. These two priorities work together as in order to help reduce harm, we need to have the confidence of the public to report crime and share information that helps us become better at tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and protecting the public from harm.

Confidence in policing has historically been higher in Merton than many other London boroughs which I believe is a result of good contact with the local police,



good sharing of information and prompt police intervention in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour. The relationship between Merton Police and the public relies on honesty and transparency, which I continue to provide through the local neighbourhood policing teams and the work with our partners and community members.

How can Neighbourhood Watch coordinators and members assist their local police team?

NHW serves as a fantastic tool to help the public pay their part in fighting crime. The swift reporting of suspicious activity and sharing of information on crimes can make a real difference. Preventing a crime from occurring is always better than trying to solve a crime that has happened and it is here that NHW coordinators and members can play their part.

The other important part of NHW is the relationship between its members and the police. Policing needs advocates, it needs people who are able and willing to help share the work the police are doing to try and fight crime and protect the public.

Being involved in NHW means a greater awareness of what is happening in your local area to help provide reassurance to neighbours and advice on how to prevent crime from happening to them.

Any messages for our Neighbourhood Watch coordinators and members?

Thank you for all that you do to help keep your communities safe. We are always looking to see how we can help NHW improve its membership and promote the wider messaging that can help reduce crime and catch criminals. Our focus remains on the wards where there is the lowest take up of NHW but ask for every NHW scheme to continue to drive local recruitment and encourage people to join.

You are our eyes and ears, you are the people who know your community and you are the people who can make a difference and help in the fight against crime.

Wishing you all a very safe and peaceful Christmas.

WE'RE ONLY A CLICK AWAY.

HELP US BY REPORTING INCIDENTS OR CRIMES ONLINE.

It's quick, more convenient and handled by the same team who answer our calls.

www.met.police.uk

KEEPING LONDON SAFE



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