

Excerpt from the Neighbourhood Watch AGM November 2017 Report

Closure of Police Stations.

This is a London-wide policy that Merton has little control over, although we attended meetings at City Hall to hear, and comment on the latest plans. The general feeling across London is that this is the “least - worse” option, given the amount that has to be saved. We all know the problems of getting from parts of Mitcham to Wimbledon, and this is no different from the joys of travelling from parts of Wimbledon to Mitcham – so we lose either way with only one station. We had Inspector Nick Milton here to give the police view before Questions.

Closure of Wimbledon Police Station

At the AGM of the Merton NHW Association, the intended closure of Wimbledon Police Station totally occupied the time available for the Question and Answer session. It had been expected that there would be opposition to this move as Merton's two stations are at opposite ends of the borough and would therefore result in greater inconvenience, whichever was chosen. A close questioning of the police was also expected concerning their response time when covering the borough from one hub. Financially, the choice was simple as Wimbledon was in a prime location and Mitcham station was in a conservation area and therefore difficult to develop

Comment on the AGM

We must get the younger members involved in active work in the areas in which we live. HOW? Some of us are getting on a bit and one day will not be able to do what we do now. Will anybody want to take over the vacant patches? There is very little to do apart from working with neighbours and keeping an eye on things generally; so can some younger people come forward?



Editor's Note

We continue to hope that you will take the time to read and enjoy the contents of this edition and give us your feedback.

HELP: Is there anyone who would be prepared to photocopy 300 copies of this newsletter on a quarterly basis for free!!

To make any contributions, please email us Mertonnhw@met.police.uk

***WISHING YOU ALL,
SEASONS GREETINGS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR***

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MERTON SAYS NO MORE

TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

The 16 Days against Violence and Abuse which launched on 25 November saw several events taking place in Mitcham, Morden and Wimbledon including stalls at Marks and Spencer's in Colliers Wood and St Marks Children's Centre in Mitcham



The campaign, which ran from 25 November (White Ribbon Day to end violence against women) to 10 December (Human rights day), aimed to raise awareness of violence, including domestic violence and abuse, child sexual exploitation, female genital mutilation and forced marriage, stalking and harassment and encourage victims to get help.



Deputy Mayor, Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Crime and Community Safety and the Opposition, Community Safety Manager, DCI from the police and Safer Merton staff including police officers

Merton joined the UK says NO More campaign last year as a way of promoting services for victim/survivors <http://uksaysnomore.org/>

Where to Get Help

There are a range of services available to victims of abuse and violence, which are available to both men and women.

The One Stop Shop is a confidential drop-in service and victims and survivors can talk with a solicitor, get safety advice and talk with a specialist domestic violence worker (IDVA) on Mondays (except bank holidays) from 9.30am to 12pm at Morden Baptist Church, Crown Lane, Morden or you can call 020 7801 1777

What is Be Safe?

Be Safe campaigns aim to:

Use insight (crime data and analysis, research etc) and behavioural change theory.

Align and support operational activity.

Harness the power of partners and businesses who can help to provide key crime prevention advice and products making it easier for the public to take these actions.

Use evaluation to better understand what has been effectiveness, in order to improve future communications.

Key Messages

This is the third year of the MetTrace operation, So far officers are providing SmartWater forensic property marking kits to homes that are most vulnerable to burglary in London. To date they have distributed over 280,000 kits and burglary has fallen 25% in MetTrace areas.

The police are working closely with the local authority and other partners to help provide advice and other burglary prevention materials required to support vulnerable victims and residents in hotspot areas.

While determined burglars will find ways to enter, you can take action to make it harder and less attractive for them. Keep your home safe by following 3 Step Protect:

Simple steps can make a difference. You can be a hero and help to stop crime before it happens by following our implement burglary crime prevention steps.

Burglary Facts

Burglaries go up when the nights get longer.

Most burglaries occur during weekdays between working hours.

Once burgled the chance of further burglaries increases.

Burglary Prevention Advice



1 Protect Your Valuables

Don't advertise your goods.

Always keep valuables like tablets and laptops out of sight from windows and store keys away from the letterbox.

Help police identify your property if stolen by using a property marking kit and taking photos. The MPS is currently providing SmartWater kits as part of the MetTrace operation. Visit

www.met.police.uk/mettrace

Consider buying a safe or using other safe storage providers.

2 Safeguard Your Building

Lock all windows and double lock doors when you go out, even if it's only for a few minutes.

Make your home look occupied: use timer lights when the nights get longer and cancel deliveries if you're going away.

Make sure your locks are strong enough to keep Burglars out.

3 Secure Your Outside

Keep gates, sheds and garages locked and don't leave tools lying around as they can be used to break in.

Keep hedges at the front low and install outdoor lighting, so burglars have nowhere to hide.

Install trellises and spiky plants to stop burglars from climbing over fences. For more advice on how to keep your home safe visit

www.met.police.uk/burglary

REPORTING CRIMES

The Police

In emergency call **999**

If a crime is in progress or if someone is in immediate danger

Call **101** if a crime is not an emergency, to give information to the police or to make an enquiry.

Reporting Crime Online to the Police
Visit: www.met.police.uk/report/

Anti-Social Behaviour

Contact your local Safer Neighbourhoods Team

asbunit@merton.gov.uk
or

Merton police on **101**

Terrorist Activity

To report an immediate terrorist threat.

Call **999** or the police anti-terrorist hotline on **0800 789 321**.

CrimeStoppers

If you have information about a crime but would prefer not to speak to the police.

Call anonymously on **0800 555 111**

Visit : www.crimestoppers-uk.org

4. Family Gold Advice

Millions of pounds worth of gold and jewellery is stolen in London every year. Keep your family gold and heirlooms safe by following our advice:

Review your current home security arrangements to make sure they are adequate. Follow 3 Step Protect to keep your home safe.

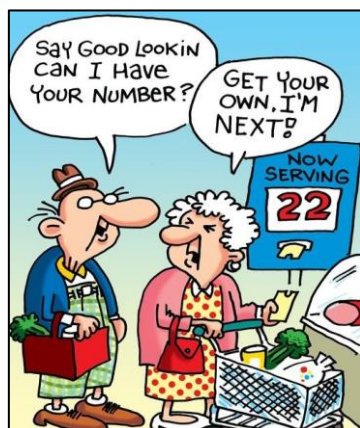
Keep jewellery and gold secure with the National Pawnbrokers Association (NPA). Visit www.thenpa.com to find your nearest branch and what they can offer.

If you need to keep jewellery at home, don't leave it on display or in obvious places such as bedrooms and bathrooms.

Be discreet if wearing jewellery in public.

The only way police can prove that jewellery found on a thief doesn't belong to them is if you take the following steps:

Photograph each piece of valuable gold or jewellery, keep a written description and get a valuation from your insurance company. Make sure your jewellery is properly marked with a product suitable for jewellery such as SmartWater, which is being provided by the Met Police as part of our MetTrace operation to protect London homes and your property. See www.met.police.uk/mettrace for more information



JUNIOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH PAGE

Recently we took the Junior Neighbourhood Watch Scheme to William Morris Primary School in Pollards Hill where we delivered sessions with two separate classes. We are lining up other schools in Pollards Hill and Morden early in 2018.

The children we engage with really enjoy the interactive sessions we hold in class as well as the external visits to their local Fire Station and Merton Councils CCTV room.

The picture below shows the children from William Morris Primary asking questions of firefighters during their visit to Mitcham Fire Station.



The picture below shows the three winners from William Morris Primary of the Neighbourhood Watch logo competition



Neighbourhood Watch Logo Competition.

In January 2018 we will again be awarding the Jack Sims Trophy to the school who have produced the best Neighbourhood watch logo in 2017.

Neighbourhood Watch



Merton Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter

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