



# OUR NEWS

## City of Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association

Spring 2018

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### What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) brings neighbours together to tackle crime & promote a sense of cooperation in their local community. Each Watch is led by a coordinator whose role it is to arrange meetings & act as a point of contact for the council & police. If you don't know who your NHW coordinator is, contact your SNT's Dedicated Ward Officer at <https://www.met.police.uk/> for further information or to find out about setting up a Neighbourhood Watch in your area.

### Aims of Neighbourhood Watch

- Brings people closer together.
- Creates a stronger community spirit.
- Helps to reduce crime & people's fear of crime.
- Strengthens links with the police.
- Develops closer relationships with local councils.
- Improves the local environment.
- Creates a better quality of life.

### Neighbourhood Watch Association

The association held its first EGM on 12 March 2018. CEO John Hayward-Cripps

from National NHW Network & Sgt Matthew Carey MPS Lead for NHW in Westminster attended. We discussed NHW signs, funding & the need for at least one NHW in each ward. It was agreed to create a Twitter account, [@CoWNWA](https://twitter.com/CoWNWA), to drive the association forward. The Annual General Meeting will be held in August.

### Safer Neighbourhoods

Your Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) is a group of Met police officers dedicated to serving your community. The team is made up of officers based in your ward, supported by additional officers from the wider area. They work closely with local authorities, community leaders & residents to decide their policing priorities for the area. If you have concerns about day-to-day crime & disorder issues contact your team at <https://www.met.police.uk/> or call 101. Your SNT also has community contact sessions. SNT's are **not** a 24-hour response team. Contact details should not be used for any communication that might require an emergency response. In an emergency always dial **999**, for non-emergencies & all other calls to the Met call **101**.

### Fraud Prevention

Let's all continue to prevent fraud & raise awareness. The 5 enablers of fraud are: 1.

Home Phone 2. Internet 3. Mobile Phone 4. Letterbox 5. Doorstep. Never assume any call, email, text, letter or knock at your door is genuine. Fraudsters lie, steal data & money. If in doubt #Takefive #Tell2. [A Little Book of Big Scams](#) & [A Little Book of Cyber Scams](#) are a general guide to many of the scams currently operating in the UK. If you want to do a bit more, become a Friend Against Scams. To know more click [here](#).



<http://www.IMMOBILISE.com/>

Create a **FREE** private & secure portfolio of all your personal property.

Register your mobile phone & all your valuables & devices by creating a personal account on the Immobilise website. You will need the IMEI number, make & model of your phone. The IMEI is usually found printed inside the battery compartment of the handset, except on iPhones where it is located on a pullout tray. Your network provider can also provide you with your IMEI. Once your property is registered, it increases the chance of them being found if lost or stolen.

## Lock It or Loose It

20,000 bicycles are stolen every year in Greater London. To deter & prevent cycle theft, follow the **3 R's**. **Record**: keep a record of the frame number, make any other marks that can identify your bike if it is stolen. **Register**: your bike details onto online property databases such as [www.BikeRegister.com](http://www.BikeRegister.com) This will help police return any recovered bikes to the rightful owners & **Report**: if your bike is stolen in London, please report this to police by calling 101 or online at <https://www.met.police.uk>. In an emergency dial 999. If residents would like their bike security marked, contact your SNT to arrange a bike marking session.

- Park your bike where it can be seen, people will also see if someone is trying to steal it. Use designated parking areas.

- Make sure the locks catch the bike frame as well as both wheels & the post or a thief may steal the bike & leave the wheels behind. Also, make sure the post can't be cut through or the bike lifted off it.
- Don't leave your bike in the same place every day.
- Make it impossible for a thief to smash the lock open: fill the D part of a lock with as much of the bike as possible. Never leave the lock laying on the pavement where it can be sledge hammered easily.
- Take any items that can be removed without tools with you such as wheels, lights, pump, computer, panniers, seat post & saddle.

## Noise Issues

Noise can be an issue in our busy capital. We remind residents & visitors to be mindful of your neighbours especially after 11:00PM & before 9:00AM. If you are being disturbed by noise happening now, call Westminster 24 hours Noise Team 020 7641 2000. If you would like help & advice about noise or to report a noise that is not happening now, please report the problem online.

<https://www.westminster.gov.uk/>

## Smoke Alarms

Smoke alarms provide a vital early warning & can allow extra time to escape if there is a fire in your home. There are many different types of smoke alarms available including strobe light & vibrating-pad alarms for those who are deaf or hard of hearing, joint smoke & [carbon monoxide alarms](#) & mains-powered alarms.

The London Fire Brigade recommends fitting smoke alarms that come with a 10 year long-lasting sealed battery. As a minimum you should have at least one device fitted on the ceiling of every floor in your home, however, the LFB recommends you fit one in every room you regularly use as well as in the hallway. Ideal locations for smoke alarms include rooms where electrical equipment is left

switched on, such as living rooms or bedrooms. Alternatively, you may receive smoke alarms fitted in your home for free, where necessary, when you request a home fire safety visit.

Most fires in the home start accidentally, & ensuring you have working smoke alarms in your home, will provide a vital early warning for danger. That is why it is important & essential to test them every month to make sure they are all in good working order.

Know your fire plan. Find out if you should be StayingIn or GoingOut if there is a fire in the building where you live. Visit <http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/know-the-plan.asp>

<b>London Fire Brigade</b> <b>Your Fire Safety:</b> <a href="http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/SafetyAtHome.asp">http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/SafetyAtHome.asp</a>
<b>Home Fire Safety Visit:</b> <a href="http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/HomeFireSafetyVisit.asp">http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/HomeFireSafetyVisit.asp</a> <b>Or call ☎ 0800 028 44 28</b>

## Dog Ownership

It is a legal requirement to have your dog microchipped. If you haven't had your dog microchipped, you may be fined or prosecuted. Westminster animal wardens can microchip your dog for free. To book a visit from a warden, please email [awarden@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:awarden@westminster.gov.uk). Their next free events are:

- 28 April 2018 10:00AM-4:00PM, Regent's Park, The Broad Walk (next to the Smokehouse Café) NW1 4NU
- 01 July 2018 11:00AM-3:00PM, Paddington Recreational Ground, Randolph Avenue, Maida Vale W9 1PF

Alternatively, a licensed vet or a charitable organisation like Battersea Dogs & Cats Home can microchip your dog for free.

## Your Call Counts

Being alert, vigilant & calling in to the police any incidents or suspicious activity, is all our responsibility. When you notice something unusual, no matter how trivial you think it may seem, phone it in. Your action will help reduce criminal activity & anti-social behaviour in our community.

### 1. Emergencies: **999**

To report an emergency: immediate threat to life or property or a crime happening right now.

### 2. Non-emergencies: **101**

To report a crime that has already happened, seek crime prevention advice or make police aware of any policing issues.

3. To provide information & intelligence about local community issues, contact your local police team: <https://www.met.police.uk/> & enter your postcode.

4. Crimestoppers: **0800 555 111** Call anonymously with information about crime.

## What you report can make a difference

You & your neighbours know what should be going on in your area & importantly what should not. The police & council won't necessarily know what is going on in your area unless you tell them & the more reports they receive on a particular issue, the more evidence they have to action it. If you witness a crime or anti-social behaviour, please report it.

## Tips for staying safe this Summer

The Met website contains useful safety tips for residents & visitors. Follow the tips below, to enjoy Westminster safely this Summer. Keep your valuables safe:

- Be alert & aware of what's around you, especially when you are in new locations or situations.
- Keep your possessions hidden. Be

discreet with your belongings; displaying expensive jewellery or electronic devices, like mobile phones & cameras, could attract unwanted attention.

- Spread your valuables about. If you keep your keys, wallets & ID in the same bag or pocket it will increase the risk of your identity being stolen or home being burgled.
- Never leave your bags or other valuables unattended in public places.
- If someone does try to take your belongings or money, let them go. Do not fight as this increases your chances of being hurt. Call 999 & ask for the police.
- If you discover that your things have been stolen after the fact, do not call 999 as it's not an emergency in progress. Call the police non-emergency number on 101.
- If you have any information on any crime or have been a victim of crime but do not want to talk to the police, call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111. Stay safe in London

## Message in a Bottle

A white plastic bottle containing a form containing vital information about you could save your life. The bottle is placed where the Emergency Services are trained to look, in the refrigerator door. A green cross sticker is placed on the inside of the main house door & another sticker on the fridge door. The information provided should include where you keep your medication & latest prescription, contact details, major medical conditions, personal doctor & anything considered necessary that would need attention in those first critical moments. Bottles can be obtained from most Lions Clubs free of charge, local chemists or primary care trusts in the area. More at [www.lions105w.org.uk](http://www.lions105w.org.uk)

## What NHW doesn't do

It is their role to be neighbourly, watch, report & continue to report. If a problem has been identified, it is up to estate offices, the council or police to handle the situation. NHW does not do surveillance or

patrols that is a position for the police to deal with.

## Neighbourhood Watch online

Find out more about Neighbourhood Watch & crime prevention through the following websites:

City of Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association:

[www.wnwa.btck.co.uk](http://www.wnwa.btck.co.uk)  
@CoWNWA

Neighbourhood Watch & Home Watch Network:

[www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)

Police crime prevention advice:

<http://www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention>

For news, information & crime prevention tips you can follow the police & the council on Twitter:

@MPSWestminster  
@CityWestminster

## Keep informed – Here to help

In addition to reading this newsletter, you can keep up-to-date with breaking news on safety, security & community events by visiting <http://www.wnwa.btck.co.uk/>. If you would like to be kept informed by email, please contact us at [wnhwassociation@gmail.com](mailto:wnhwassociation@gmail.com). All contact details are kept strictly confidential.

*City of Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association is delivered in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police Service.*

