



OUR NEWS

City of Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association

Autumn 2018

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 coordinator is, contact your SNT's Dedicated Ward Officer at met.police.uk/ for further information or to find out about setting up a NHW in your area.

Aims of NHW

- 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.

NHW Association

Westminster has introduced an Association to lead the way in how NHW is run. If you are a NHW coordinator in Westminster & would like to get involved, please email us. In addition to reading this newsletter, you can keep up-to-date with

breaking news on safety, security & community events by visiting wnwa.btck.co.uk & [@CoWNWA](https://twitter.com/CoWNWA) on Twitter.

Phone Fraud

Of all reported frauds nationally, the number one route used by fraudsters in the Met Police area is the **phone** used as a route into the homes & lives of loved ones according to reported crimes to Action Fraud. Two red flags are people asking for payment of fines/bills or invoices in gift cards including iTunes, steam gift cards & impersonating phone/broadband companies asking people to get their computers out. They manipulate them to gain remote access. Hang up on **all** cold calls from any business, take five & verify via a trusted method. There is a [recent article from Sky News](#) warning people to beware of computer software service fraud often starting with a phone call, email or pop-up. To stop phone fraud, we need to know criminals lie, can spoof CallerID & display to read as **any** number. They can keep the phone line open for up to 10 seconds, spoof a dial tone & may know our names & details due to a data breach. Fraudsters want people to keep quiet. #TakeFive, talk protect, #Tell2 helps reduce that harm, stigma of fraud & disrupts criminals. Report fraud, call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040.

Immobilise for Mobile Phones immobilise.com/

Register your mobile phone 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 pull-out tray. Your network provider can also provide you with your IMEI. Once your phone & all your valuables are registered, it increases the chance of them being found if lost or stolen.

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: met.police.uk/ & enter your postcode.

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

Safer Neighbourhoods

Police Safer Neighbourhoods teams support NHW by helping set up new watches, offering crime prevention advice & acting as a point of contact for any non-urgent information about crime in your local area. The Association supports the administration of all Westminster watches, writes this newsletter & arranges an

annual meeting. If you would like to know the contact details for your local Safer Neighbourhoods team visit met.police.uk/ or have any general queries about NHW, please contact us.

Autumn Nights

Clocks, Locks & Lights

After you've put your clocks back it's time to review your home security. Do your part, be security smart! Burglary is a serious issue, that's why Operation Bumblebee is targeting burglars in London. Help the police keep your home & property secure by following their 10 top tips.

1) Mark or etch your property with your postcode, house or flat number or the first three letters of your house name. 2) Register items with a serial number at: immobilise.com/ 3) Do not leave your car keys or ID documents near doors, letterbox or windows. 4) Always check who's at the door & don't open it if you feel anxious. 5) Close & lock all your doors & windows, even if you are only going out for a few minutes. 6) Keep your valuables out of sight. 7) Leave some lights on if it will be dark before you get home. 8) Install a visible burglar alarm. 9) Always keep sheds & outbuildings locked. 10) Cancel milk or other deliveries if you will be away for days or weeks at a time.

Happy & Safe this Halloween

Trick or treating can be really good fun, but for some people it can be a particularly distressing time of the year, especially for more vulnerable members of our community. If you go out trick or treating, please respect the wishes of households displaying a 'No Trick or Treat' poster & make sure you stay safe by following the [Halloween Code](#). You can download the popular 'No Trick or Treat' poster [here](#) for you to print.

Parents:

- Make sure younger children are supervised.
- Remind young people to respect other

people's property.

•Make sure you know where they're going, who with & when they'll be back.

Shopkeepers:

•Don't sell eggs & flour to young people & remember selling fireworks to under 18's is an offence.

For those who want a quiet 31 October without unwanted visitors, make it obvious you don't want trick or treaters, use the poster & put it on your door! Turn off your outside lights & draw your curtains.

Bonfire Night

London Fire Brigade is urging the public to attend organised firework displays this Bonfire Night after seven people suffered serious fire related injuries last 05 November. In 2013, the Brigade received nearly 600 calls & firefighters attended over 100 fires across London during the annual celebration. It's always much safer to attend an organised firework display & the Brigade has designed a map listing free & ticketed events. The Brigade's Third Officer Dave Brown, said: "Fireworks can be spectacular but they are explosives & can cause serious injury if handled irresponsibly. We would urge Londoners to reduce the risk of injury & fire by attending an organised firework display but if you are having your own celebration, please stay safe by carefully following the Firework Safety Code."

The Fire Safety Code is:

- Only buy fireworks marked with the British Standard Kitemark BS7114.
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box & always follow the instructions carefully when using them.
- Light them at arms length using a taper & stand well back.
- Never go back to them once they are lit. Even if a firework hasn't gone off, it could still explode.
- Never throw fireworks & never put them in your pocket.
- Respect your neighbours, don't let off fireworks late at night & remember there are laws to follow.
- Take care with sparklers never give them

to children under five. Even when they have gone out they are still hot so put sparklers in a bucket of water after use.

- Keep your pets indoors throughout the evening.

We are also reminding people that it is an offence to:

- Light fireworks between the hours of 11:00PM & 07:00AM.
- Throw fireworks or any other objects in the street, at property or at people.
- Trespass on or cause damage to other people's property.

We urge anyone who sees or knows of the misuse of fireworks to call the police on the non-emergency number 101. In an emergency, always dial 999.

London Fire Brigade
Your Fire Safety: <http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/SafetyAtHome.asp>

Home Fire Safety Visit:
<http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/HomeFireSafetyVisit.asp>
Or call ☎0800 028 4428

Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social behaviour can have a lasting impact on neighbourhoods & communities as it often leads to an increase in crime, particularly violence & criminal damage. The Metropolitan Police Service is changing the way anti-social behaviour (ASB) can be reported. The new ASB online form can be accessed at the link: met.police.uk/ro/report/asb/antisocial-behaviour/. There will be no change to the current ASB process other than the method that the original report is being made by. The public can continue to report via current channels, this is simply opening up a further opportunity for us. Click [here](#) to view a document explaining the changes.

NHW launches campaign resources

Neighbourhood Watch is taking a new approach to crime prevention with the launch of a series of online information packs & campaign toolkits to help the organisation's volunteers run awareness &

prevention campaigns in their own local communities. The seven new crime & vulnerability toolkits aim to provide regional & local NHW coordinators with various campaign resources that they can use to inform & educate their local members about the new & emerging crime types. The online packs & campaign toolkits can be accessed: ourwatch.org.uk/crimes.

Home Fire Safety Visit

Fitting alarms save lives but only if they work. Test yours every month, it's as simple as pushing the button. If you or anyone you live with is a vulnerable person, please contact the Fire Brigade & organise a free home fire safety visit. They can help you work out the right fire detection system for the circumstances & help you get it installed. Though they don't fit all systems for you, they can put you in touch with the right experts to get what you need installed. Call to make an appointment on freephone 0800 028 4428 or [book an appointment online](#).

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. westminster.gov.uk/

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.

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 NHW & crime prevention through the following websites:

City of Westminster NHW Association:

wnwa.btck.co.uk
@CoWNWA

Neighbourhood Watch Network:

ourwatch.org.uk

Police crime prevention advice:

met.police.uk/crimeprevention

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

@MPSWestminster
@CityWestminster

Your Feedback

We hope you enjoy the contents but would also like to hear from you if you have any preferences on topics to include, feedback on the current format or your own good news story. If you do, please let us know on wnhwassociation@gmail.com. All contact details are kept strictly confidential.

City of Westminster NHW Association is delivered in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police Service.

