

OUR NEWS

Vincent Square East Neighbourhood Watch (VSENW)

Promoting Responsible Citizenship, Neighbourliness & Crime Prevention

www.nwht.chessck.co.uk @VincentSqEastNW nwht@talktalk.net

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.

NHW promotes community safety by increasing crime prevention awareness, greater vigilance, opportunities for crime & fear of crime by enhancing responsible citizenship, neighbourliness particularly among the more vulnerable, elderly & young members of the community.

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.

Patch includes

Households & community in Hide Tower, Carey Place, Chapter Street, Douglas Street, Esterbrooke Street, Hide Place, Page Street, Regency Street, Vincent Square, Vincent Street, a youth club, activity centre & two churches.



Safer Neighbourhoods is intrinsic to Neighbourhood Watch. Your Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT), aka your local police team, is a group of Met police officers dedicated to serving your community. The team is

made up of officers based in your area or ward, supported by additional officers from the wider area.

They work closely with local authorities, community leaders, Neighbourhood Watch & residents to decide their policing priorities for the area. This helps them to find useful, long-term solutions to local problems while maintaining their wider focus on reducing crime across London. If you have concerns about day-to-day crime & disorder issues in the Vincent Square ward, contact your local police team at VincentSquare.snt@met.police.uk, or call 101 or in an emergency always call 999 or click: <https://www.met.police.uk/area/your-area/met/we-stminster/vincent-square/meetings-and-events/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area>.

SNTs 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 call 999, for a non-emergency & all other calls to the Met, call 101. If you feel uncomfortable contacting them yourself, please email Imaan J. Williams at nwht@talktalk.net & she will assist you.

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 to the correct phone number below or if a non-emergency, report it online at <https://www.met.police.uk/>.

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.

- **Emergency: 999**

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

- **Non-emergency: 101**

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

- To provide information & intelligence about local community issues, contact your local police team at:

Email: VincentSquare.snt@met.police.uk, call 101 or 999 in an emergency or click <https://www.met.police.uk/area/your-area/met/westminster/vincent-square/meetings-and-events/top-reported-crimes-in-this-area>

- Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Call anonymously with information about crime.

Free Fridge Magnet

If you would like a 'Your Call Counts' free fridge magnet that has the emergency contact details, please email Imaan J. Williams at nwht@talktalk.net. We have provided 2,293 'Your Call Counts' fridge magnets to date. Feedback tells us that the fridge magnet makes people feel safe.

The UK Property Register

Register your property including mobile phones free & improve your chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen. Immobilise helps police identify the owners of recovered property thousands of times everyday. Property updates you make are immediately available to the police nationally. To know more, click: <https://www.immobilise.com/>.

CheckMEND is the world's most comprehensive device check. It can be used by individuals, traders, retailers & recyclers to check the history & current status of a device or other personal possessions & combat the sale of stolen gadgets & valuables. For more click: <https://www.checkmend.com/uk>.

Take Five National Campaign

Fraud poses a major threat to the UK. It is a crime that the finance industry is committed to tackling but it is also one that requires the combined efforts of every sector, both public & private, to overcome.

Take Five is a national campaign that offers straight-forward & impartial advice to help everyone protect themselves from financial fraud. This includes email deception & phone-based scams as well as online fraud – particularly where criminals impersonate trusted organisations. Many people may already know the dos & do nots of financial fraud & scams – that no-one should ever contact them out of the blue to ask for their full PIN or full password or ever make them feel

pressured into moving money to another account. The trouble is, in the heat of the moment, it is easy to forget this. After all, trusting people on their word is something everyone tends to do instinctively. If someone says they are from your bank or a trusted organisation, why would you not believe them? Take Five urges you to stop & consider whether the situation is genuine – to stop & think if what you are being told really makes sense. The Take Five campaign taps into the psychology that scammers use to hook people in, helping you stay one step ahead & protect yourself & your loved ones against the increasing variety of scams happening every day. They have identified the following five behaviours scammers commonly use:

- They imply they are doing you a favour. (reciprocity)
- They indicate everyone else is doing this. (social proof)
- They say your only chance is to act now. (urgency)
- They act like they are similar to you so you like them & want to please them. (connection)
- They ask you to do a little thing that makes you do more. (commitment)

They also know that often victims of scams report that in hindsight they felt something was not quite right at the time. The Take Five campaign aims to raise awareness of the tactics scammers use & encourages you to stop & think if something does not FEEL, SEEM, LOOK or SOUND right. This allows you time to trust your gut instinct & help prevent becoming a scam victim.

There are five key routes a fraudster will take into your lives: Home Phone, Internet, Mobile Phone, Letterbox, Doorstep. Any unsolicited call, email, text, letter or knock at your door from anyone or any business: Out of the blue, No thank you. For more click: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk>.

There are people sat at home who are lonely, vulnerable or elderly. Many will not see this article but you could reach them! Have a chat, ensure they know how to spot & stop fraud. It could start with Tell2 family & friends in your real world. Together we protect, do not let the con man con you!

Home Fire Safety

Smoke alarms detect smoke – fit them in all rooms where a fire might start but in smoky or steamy rooms like your kitchen or bathroom, a heat alarm is more suitable. These alarms go off when the room reaches a certain temperature. They are just as easy to fit as smoke alarms & you can buy them from as little as £10 from DIY stores & online. Test your smoke alarms & carbon monoxide alarms (carbon monoxide can be caused if the following appliances are faulty, boilers, gas hobs, gas cookers, gas fires by

partially burned carbon fuel sources like natural gas, coal & propane) on #TestItTuesday, it is as simple as pushing the button. Press! Beep! Scream! For more click: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/>.

There are more steps that we can take to make sure our home or the home of someone we care for, is safe from fire but everyone's home is different, so the London Fire Brigade's advice is not 'one-size-fits-all'. Their Home Fire Safety Checker (HFSC) is a simple tool that begins by asking a few easy questions about your home. It then guides you around each room, helping you to uncover risks, & providing tailored advice. They recommend that everyone checks their home using the HFSC. For more, click: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/home-fire-safety/>.

If it seems that you might be at higher risk or you know someone who you think needs their help, the HFSC will suggest you book an in-person Home Fire Safety Visit (HFSV) from one of their crews. For more, click: <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/book-a-home-fire-safety-visit/>.

In Imaan J. Williams's role as a Fire Safety Champion, she says 'Firefighters stress that fire doors left open compromise residents & Firefighters safety should there be a fire. Visible signage needs to be displayed stating Fire Doors Must Be Kept Closed'.

Fire safety advice urges anyone who sees or knows of the misuse of matches & lighters to call the police on the non-emergency number 101. In an emergency always call 999.

London Fire Brigade
Your Home Fire Safety: https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/
Home Fire Safety Visit: https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/book-a-home-fire-safety-visit/
Or call ☎ 0800 028 4428

#ChargeSafe

On average in 2023, the London Fire Brigade has been called to an e-bike or e-scooter fire once every two days. In 2022, they attended 87 e-bike & 29 e-scooter fires, a total of 116 fires. The risk of fire is increased when charging unsafe or damaged batteries. Cheaper batteries for e-bikes & e-scooters that are purchased online, that do not necessarily adhere to UK safety regulations, are more likely to fail & cause fire particularly if not used with the correct charger. There a number of ways you can reduce the risks when charging lithium batteries:

- Do not block your exit with charging batteries or e-bike & e-scooters. If a fire breaks out, you will not be able to safely leave your home. Store them in a shed or garage where possible.
- Keep an eye out for warning signs that your battery might be failing & becoming a fire risk.
- Never leave your battery to charge when you are out or while you sleep.
- Make sure your battery & charger meet UK safety standards.
- Use the correct charger for your battery & make sure to buy from a reputable seller.
- Let your battery cool before charging it.
- Unplug your charger once the battery has charged.
- Fit smoke alarms in the area where you charge batteries.

To know more, click <https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/lithium-batteries/>.

Tips for staying safe

The Metropolitan Police website contains useful safety tips for residents & visitors. Follow the tips to enjoy London safely. Keep your valuables safe:

- Be alert & aware of what is 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, mobile phones 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 is 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.

Autumn Nights

The Metropolitan Police will launch their annual Autumn Nights Campaign against anti-social behaviour & associated criminality at Halloween

on 31 October end date to follow. As the police say, violence & anti-social behaviour tend to increase at that time of year when the nights draw in earlier. Their advice offers best practice for you to follow alongside practical crime prevention methods, click:

<https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>.

This Autumn Nights season, you can help keep your neighbourhood safe by reporting any incidents. To report misuse of fireworks, call the police on the non-emergency number 101. In an emergency or if you are in immediate danger, always call 999. To report a crime that has already happened, call 101 or report it online at <https://www.met.police.uk/>. You can report crime anonymously to Crimestoppers by phoning 0800 555 111.



'Bullying Ends Here' was created after the suicide of Jamie Hubley who was relentlessly bullied for years. This educational programme picks up the message that Jamie worked hard to spread, the message of acceptance & understanding. 'Bullying Ends Here' is a one hour presentation for youths or adults & aimed at all forms of bullying including cyberbullying. 'Bullying Ends Here' is requested around the world for its award winning presentation & proven results to not only change lives but save them. If you are interested in a free 'Bullying Ends Here' presentation, please email Imaan J. Williams at nwht@talktalk.net.

Noise Issues

Noise is a definite issue in our busy capital. We remind residents & visitors to be mindful of your neighbours especially between 11:00PM - 9:00AM. If you are being disturbed by noise happening now & you feel safe to approach in person but are unable to sort it out, call the council on 020 7641 6000 & press 5, for an out of hours noise issue, call the council on 020 7641 6000 & press 1. If you would like help & advice about noise or to report a noise that is not happening now, please report the issue online at <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/report-it>.

Cadets

If you are aged between 14-17 & are looking for a fun, challenging, exciting way to gain new skills & make new friends, join the cadets, please click: <https://nwht.chessck.co.uk/KidzAGAINSTcrime>, & scroll to Cool Links.

St. Andrew's Club, Old Pye Street

The world's oldest youth club is a community based youth club that provides activities that are enabling, educational, fun & participative for young people from the ages of 5 to adulthood. The Club offers a safe, welcoming & active

environment & aims to do right by their members to help them help themselves & others. For more, click: <https://www.standrewsclub.com/>.

Neighbourhood Watch online

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

- Vincent Square East Neighbourhood Watch:

<https://nwht.chessck.co.uk/>

@VincentSqEastNW

- National Neighbourhood Watch:

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>

- Police crime prevention advice:

<https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

For news, information & fraud & cyber-crime prevention tips you can follow the local police, council & Take Five on Twitter:

@MPSVincentSq

@CityWestminster

@TakeFive

What NHW does not do

It is our 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.

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 our website at <https://nwht.chessck.co.uk/>. If you would like to keep informed by email, email your email address to Imaan J. Williams at nwht@talktalk.net.

Your Feedback

We hope you enjoy the contents of this newsletter 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, please email Imaan J. Williams, at nwht@talktalk.net.

This newsletter is provided to you by Vincent Square East Neighbourhood Watch a voluntary organisation devoted to fostering a sense of community.

