



Dear Watch members,

Welcome to the Neighbourhood Watch newsletter. We hope you will 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 using the contact details above.

## Your Neighbourhood Watch



Neighbourhood Watch is an initiative which aims to bring neighbours together to tackle crime and promote a sense of co-operation in their local community. Each watch is led by a co-ordinator whose role it

is to arrange meetings and act as a point of contact for the council and police. Police *Safer Neighbourhoods* teams support Neighbourhood Watch by helping set up new watches, offering crime prevention advice,

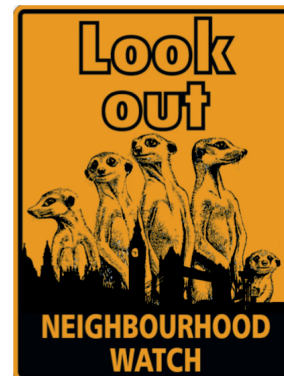
and acting as a point of contact for any non-urgent information about crime in your local area. Westminster City Council supports the administration of all Westminster watches, writes this newsletter, and arranges an annual general meeting.

If you would like to know the contact details for your local *Safer Neighbourhoods* team, or have any general queries about Neighbourhood Watch please contact us on 020 7641 2117 or neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk

## Neighbourhood Watch Street Signs

Neighbourhood Watch has traditionally been associated with street signs, to indicate that the street has signed up to the scheme. However, new watches will be aware that signs have not been erected recently. The reason for this is a complete overhaul of Westminster's streets in a scheme called 'Neat Streets'. This scheme aims to ensure Westminster's streets are clean and tidy, and present an environment which lives up to the Westminster Standard. To this end, a decision has been taken to withdraw street signage including Neighbourhood Watch signs. Watches will be encouraged to use Neighbourhood Watch window stickers to indicate their membership. While this will be a disappointment to some watches, hopefully benefits will be visible in the improvements to Westminster's street scene. If you see any broken, bent or out-of-date signs on your

streets, please let the council know on 020 7641 2000. This is the same number that you can use to report noise problems, dumped rubbish, abandoned cars and dog mess.



If you would like to request Neighbourhood Watch window stickers, please contact us on 020 7641 2117 or neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk



## Interview with a Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Neighbourhood Watch can only work with the dedication of its co-ordinators and members. We met with Imaan J. Williams, the watch co-ordinator at Hide Tower, to find out a bit more about her role.

### **How long have you been a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator?**

I've been the co-ordinator since our watch officially launched in April 2009.

### **How many members does your watch have?**

There are 36 members at the moment, but we continue to expand! I'm currently preparing a welcome pack for new residents to introduce them to Neighbourhood Watch.

### **What are the crime and disorder issues for your watch?**

There were two main problems for Hide Tower, both involving non-residents entering the block. Firstly, we had a group of young people congregating on the upper floors, and we also had some people sleeping rough in the building. The local police have been a great help with increased patrols, and have been able to direct the individuals involved to the appropriate places.

### **What do you think is important in a Neighbourhood Watch?**

Honest communication is vital – the co-ordinator has to be approachable and a good listener so that members feel confident when passing on information. It's important to establish a sense of community and to keep an eye on vulnerable residents.

### **What do you enjoy most about your role?**

I like helping people and being active in my local community. I've met some interesting people along the way, both residents from Hide Tower and the local agencies such as the Metropolitan Police and London Fire Brigade. I also enjoy the challenges of the role, including realising that some issues don't have a 'quick fix'.

## Justice Seen Justice Done

Crime in Westminster doesn't pay. Here are just a few examples of how crime has been punished in recent months.

Florin Cosmin George (DOB: 16/10/82) was sentenced to 21 days in prison for placing prostitute cards in phoneboxes on Edgware Road.

George Featherstone (DOB: 19/09/88) was sentenced to 16 weeks in prison for repeatedly phoning in fake bomb warnings to Victoria Station.

Arban Alikaj (DOB: 24/05/63) was sentenced to 200 hours of unpaid work and told to pay back £6,182 following benefit fraud.

Robert Medland (DOB: 22/06/58) was sentenced to 8 weeks in prison for breaking the terms of his ASBO.

Eric Oduro (DOB: 25/10/89) was sentenced to 90 hours of unpaid work for shoplifting on Oxford Street.





## Communities in Control

Neighbourhood Watch members already contribute to improving their neighbourhood. However, there are many other ways to get involved if you want to do more. Here are just a few examples of Westminster residents who have contributed to their communities.

**Lemlem Teclé** is a resident in Vincent Square. She volunteers for the police by supporting Neighbourhood Watch.



"I like to give something back to the community, I like to help. My daily work consists of updating the database, writing letters and checking voicemail and e-mail. It

has given me confidence and work experience."

**Angela Singhate** is a resident in Queen's Park. She organised a series of focused talks for Queen's Park residents to discuss perceptions of crime, parenting, and other community issues.

**Crissie Chambers** is a Queen's Park resident who runs dog socialising classes to encourage owners to look after their dogs responsibly. "Dogs are my passion, and my aim is to make all local dog owners responsible."

If you would like more information on how to get involved, please contact Neighbourhood Watch on 020 7641 2117.

## Crime Reduction News

### Harrow Road

Over the last few years, the Prince of Wales junction has been transformed by more police officers, design improvements to homes, and the establishment of new Neighbourhood Watches. There was a 39% decrease in burglaries between 2008/9 and 2009/10. Other crimes, such as drug dealing and street prostitution, have also decreased following enforcement and support for individuals who had been causing trouble in the area. The Maida Hill street market was established which has made the junction a positive focal point for the local community.

### Soho

A clean-up of Soho has led to a dramatic 27% drop in drugs related offences in the past year. Two unlicensed sex shops have been closed down and 15 individuals with a history of drug dealing or drug use have been barred from Soho, with two successful ASBOs granted by the courts. Further plans for the area include regenerating Berwick Street market as Soho's local high street.

### Lancaster Gate

Streets in Lancaster Gate and other areas have benefited from SelectaDNA kits which leave a unique mark on valuable property, helping to recover items if they are stolen. If you would like to know more, please contact your local police team using the details on the back page.

### Westbourne

Thanks to information from affected residents, police from have recently executed drugs warrants at addresses in Marylands Road and Aldsworth Close. We are also pursuing action to permanently evict the tenants.

### Churchill

Operation Starborough was a police operation to tackle robbery, and was supported by the City Guardians. It resulted in three arrests, 11 search warrants executed, and a substantial decrease in robberies in the areas most affected. The team also increased their patrols and gave crime prevention advice to people in the area.



### Watch Online

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

**Home Office Neighbourhood Watch:**

[www.neighbourhoodwatch.uk.com](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.uk.com)

**Home Office Crime Reduction Website:**

[www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

**UK Neighbourhood Watch Trust:**

[www.neighbourhoodwatch.net](http://www.neighbourhoodwatch.net)

**London Neighbourhood Watch Association:**

[www.lnwa.org](http://www.lnwa.org)

**Neighbourhood Watch Info:**

[www.nwinfo.co.uk](http://www.nwinfo.co.uk)

**Metropolitan Police Crime Prevention Advice:**

[www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention)

**Home Office Crime Reduction Advice:**

[www.crimereduction.gov.uk](http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk)

If you don't already know who your co-ordinator is, contact Westminster's Neighbourhood Watch office on 020 7641 2117 or email [neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodwatch@westminster.gov.uk) for further information, or to find out about starting up a watch in your area.

Call the switchboard numbers of your local police stations to get in touch with your local Crime Prevention Officer and Safer Neighbourhood Team:

Paddington Green      020 7402 1212

Marylebone            020 7486 1212

West End Central      020 7437 1212

Charing Cross            020 7240 1212

Belgravia                020 7730 1212

Harrow                    020 7402 1212

St John's Wood        020 7486 1212

### What you report *can* make a difference

You and your neighbours know what should be going on in your area and, importantly, what should not.

The Police and council won't necessarily know what is going on in your area unless you tell them and 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, report it.

To report non-urgent anti-social behaviour to the Police, phone 0300 123 1212

To report issues with street lighting, noise, graffiti, roads etc to the council, phone 020 7641 2000 or online at [www.westminster.gov.uk/streetproblems](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/streetproblems)

Contact your local Safer Neighbourhood Team or Police Station (details above) for non-urgent crime, community issues and long-term problem solving.

**In an emergency (i.e. where there's an immediate threat to people or property) dial 999**

Remember that working with your neighbours will improve the quality of life where you live, so please support your local Neighbourhood Watch.

With best wishes from the Westminster City Council Neighbourhood Watch Office.

*Westminster Neighbourhood Watch is delivered by Westminster City Council in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police Service and the Metropolitan Police Authority.*