NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

OUR NEWS

The City of Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association

Autumn 2017

What is Neighbourhood Watch?

Neighbourhood Watch brings neighbours together to tackle crime and promote a sense of cooperation in their local community.

Each Watch is led by a coordinator whose role it is to arrange meetings and act as a point of contact for the council and police.

If you don't know who your coordinator is or have general enquiries about Neighbourhood Watch please contact us at: wnhwassociation@gmail.com

Neighbourhood Watch Association

The City of Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association has set out its constitution as follows:

- To support and assist Westminster Neighbourhood Watches, in their role of reducing crime and improving the quality of life for those who live and work within the borough.
- To act as a forum for sharing information, experiences and ideas, and spreading best practice among Neighbourhood Watches across the Borough.
- To raise awareness of Neighbourhood Watch.
- To act as a collective mouthpiece, for Neighbourhood Watch groups and a channel of communication with Westminster City Council and the Metropolitan Police.

Home Security

It is vital to our well-being that we feel safe and secure in our own homes. Below are just a few tips on how to ensure your home is as safe as possible. There is more information at https://beta.met.police.uk/crime-prevention/residential-burglary/

Doors are the primary route of entry or exit for burglars. Make sure yours are always secured properly and consider investing in a door with a sophisticated lock, spy hole and door chain. Never leave keys near the front or back doors or windows as burglars may try to reach them via the letterbox.

Avoid leaving valuables near your windows and always close and lock them when you leave. Windows on the ground floor should be made of toughened glass or double glazed.

Security alarms and lights can be a good investment, you are far less likely to

be burgled if you have a correctly fitted and well maintained burglar alarm. Leaving a light or television on indoors can also fool a burglar into thinking you're home.

If you have a **garden** make sure gates and fences are high and difficult to access. Never leave valuables or tools that could assist a burglar in your garden shed. Front gardens shouldn't allow burglars to be hidden from view.

Residents in **flats** should ensure their doors and windows are secure, and never let strangers through communal entrances. Internal letterbox shields can stop burglars reaching through to open the door.

Remember, not all burglars break into homes – some will try to **trick or con** their way in. Use a chain or spy hole and make sure you are certain before letting an unexpected visitor in. Don't be afraid to phone their company from your own telephone - a reputable visitor will understand your concern.

If you have been burgled in the last 12 months, and/or are over 60, disabled or in receipt of a benefit, you could be entitled to a **Safe and Secure grant** to help you make changes to your home which will make it safer, and make you feel happier and more secure. To check if you are eligible for a grant, contact the Westminster Residential Grants team on res@westminster.gov.uk or 020 7641 8959.

Immobilise Property Register

'Immobilise is the world's largest free register for possession ownership details.'
https://www.immobilise.com/

Register your valued possessions and mobile phone, by creating a personal account on the Immobilise website. You will need the IMEI number, make and 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 phone is registered, it increases the chance of it being found if lost or stolen.

Smart Water

As a member of a Neighbourhood Watch, you can buy SmartWater to protect your valuables for only £25 incl. VAT & postage (one-off price.) It's guaranteed to last for five years, that's £5 a year for peace of mind. In practice it could last longer depending on how much has been applied, if it's outdoors or indoors, and other factors. Please visit: shop.smartwater.com/london-nhw or call 0800 521 669 and use discount code: L32CW25NW For more information: http://www.smartwater.com/

Your Call Counts

Being alert, vigilant and 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 and 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 and intelligence about local community issues, contact your local police team: https://beta.met.police.uk/your-area/ then enter your postcode.

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

5. Confidential Anti-Terrorist hotline: **0800 789 321** If you suspect it report it.

Safer Neighbourhoods is a truly local policing style: local people working with local police and partners to identify and tackle issues of concern in our neighbourhood. Each ward has a Dedicated Ward Officer and Police Community Support Officer. More officers work flexibly across a larger neighbourhood area in support of the dedicated team, all led by a Sergeant and an Inspector. Safer Neighbourhoods teams spend most of their time out on patrol in our neighbourhood, meeting the community, identifying and dealing with those crimes and issues we have told them cause us most concern. If you have concerns about day-to-day crime and disorder issues contact your team at https://beta.met.police.uk/your-area/ or 101. They are not a 24-hour response team, if it's an emergency always call 999.

Report anti-social behaviour in confidence

Call 101 to report non-urgent crime to the Police.

Call 0207 641 2000 to report environmental problems to the council.

If you are being disturbed by noise happening now, call Westminster 24 hours Noise Team 020 7641 2000. If you would like help and advice about noise or to report a noise that is not happening now, please report the problem online: https://www.westminster.gov.uk/

Drop in to a one-to-one consultation session with your Safer Neighbourhoods team. To find your local police, click https://beta.met.police.uk/your-area/ then enter your postcode.

Tips for staying safe this Autumn

It's an exciting time of year but don't forget to be vigilant during Halloween and Guy Fawkes. With the potential of callers coming to your doors, if you are in any doubt as to the legitimacy of the caller, do not answer the door. If you are concerned about the intentions of the caller, try and note what the caller looks like and anything they say to help the police identify these people. Then contact the police on the non-emergency number 101 or call your local police.

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 and make sure you stay safe by following the Halloween Code. In October, you can download a copy of the poster and Halloween Code.

Fireworks

Did you know it is against the law to have fireworks in a public place if you are under 18? If you are found in a public place with fireworks, you could be liable to an on-the-spot fine of £90. It is against the law to throw fireworks either in the street or any public place. Read more at http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/

Free Home Fire Safety Visit

Every home should have at least one working smoke alarm per floor.

Working smoke alarms, also known as smoke detectors, are essential as they provide vital early warning and allow extra time to escape if there is a fire in your home. They can also alert neighbours to the danger of fire. London Fire Brigade also advise to have a carbon monoxide alarm in each room.

- Test your smoke alarm every week.
- Change the battery when the low battery warning operates.

- Never disconnect or take the batteries out of your alarm if it goes off by mistake
- Do not try to remove batteries in 10 year smoke alarms as they cannot be removed or replaced

If you are concerned that your home may be at risk of fire or you know someone who you think needs the Fire Brigade's help, you can arrange a free home fire safety visit. Call to make an appointment on freephone 0800 028 44 28 or book an appointment online.

Noise Issues

Noise can be an issue in our busy capital. We remind residents and visitors to be mindful of your neighbours especially after 11:00PM and 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 and advice about noise or to report a noise that is not happening now, please report the problem online. https://www.westminster.gov.uk/

National Personal Safety Day

National Personal Safety Day on 05 October 2017, organised by Suzy Lamplugh Trust, is an annual event aimed at highlighting some of the simple, practical solutions that everyone can use to help avoid violence and aggression in today's society. It's about helping people live safer, more confident lives. The safe use of taxis/minicabs and raising awareness about the dangers of unlicensed drivers is this year's theme. For more information including how you can get involved visit https://www.suzylamplugh.org/

Neighbourhood Watch online

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

The City of Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association:

www.wnwa.btck.co.uk

Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch Network:

www.ourwatch.org.uk

Police crime prevention advice:

www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention

For news, information and crime prevention tips you can follow the police and 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 www.wnwa.btck.co.uk. If you would like to be kept informed by email, please email us at wnhwassociation@gmail.com. All contact details are kept strictly confidential.

Your Feedback

If you are a resident in Westminster, we would like to hear from you. What crime or issues are happening to your neighbourhood? What would you do. Please send your feedback to wnhwassociation@gmail.com

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