



# OUR NEWS

## Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association

[www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhoodwatch](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhoodwatch) [wnhwassociation@gmail.com](mailto:wnhwassociation@gmail.com)

### Death of former Chairman

It is with great regret that we inform you of the death of Nick F. Parker, Chair of Westminster Neighbourhood Watch. On 19 March 2019, Nick suffered a sudden illness when he collapsed in the street. He was transferred by ambulance to A&E at St Mary's Hospital where, sadly, he died soon after admission. On 09 April 2019, a few Westminster Neighbourhood Watch members & National NHW attended his funeral that was held at London Central Mosque & subsequent interment at Woodgrange Park Cemetery, E12.

### Message from Interim Chair

Following the sad death of our Chairman, Nick Parker, we find ourselves in the position to elect various offices of the committee. The elections will take place at the WNWA meeting in mid-August. We will welcome all Westminster's coordinators who wish to attend & participate in the process.

Westminster Neighbourhood Watch will go from strength to strength as we bring together the fragmented community of Watches from around the Borough – striving towards the common purpose of protecting our neighbours. We hope to also schedule a few peer visits between NHWs.

### 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.

Safer Neighbourhoods Police 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.

Westminster NHW supports the administration of all Westminster watches, writes this newsletter & arranges an annual meeting.

### 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.

### 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**.

### Communal Door Security

Your communal door is only effective if it is closed & secure, so always remember to check that it locks behind you. If it doesn't, then report it to your management agent or landlord so it can be repaired quickly.

Don't ever buzz anyone in that you don't know, even if they say that they're expected by another resident, or let them follow you in.

The best communal door entry system, as recommended by the police, is an audio & video entry system where residents can see & talk to a visitor before they let them in. The ideal communal door will be robust, security accredited & fitted with a good self-closing arm & two magnetic locks top & bottom. It should also be linked to the fire alarm & an electronic access control system operated by a key fob.

Communal doors should automatically open & remain so in the event of a fire but be fitted with buttons or handles that allow you to manually override if needed.

### Fire Doors Keep Closed

We recently had a spate of fire doors being pushed & wedged open in Hide Tower. The Fire Brigade state this is a serious issue & needs to be addressed immediately.

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'.

Test your smoke alarm each week, it's as simple as pushing the button. If you or anyone you live with or know is a vulnerable person, please contact the Fire Brigade & organise a free home fire safety visit.

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

<b>London Fire Brigade</b>
Your Fire Safety: <a href="http://www.londonfire.gov.uk">http://www.londonfire.gov.uk</a>
Home Fire Safety Visit: <a href="http://www.london-fire.gov.uk">http://www.london-fire.gov.uk</a>
Or call ☎ 0800 028 4428

### Victim of fraud?

What is the number one way a fraudster can enter our lives, steal our money, identity, data & cause absolute chaos?

The phone can be used as the main route into people's homes to commit fraud. The 5 key enablers of fraud are:

1. Telephone
2. Internet
3. Mobile
4. Letterbox
5. Doorstep

If you receive a call, email, text, letter or person on your doorstep out of the blue, no thank you! Never assume ANY call, email, text, letter or person on your doorstep is genuine.

Fraudsters lie, impersonate genuine businesses & organisations you know & can keep the phone line open for 10 seconds after you hang up! They may know your name & details, can spoof Caller ID to show the real number. If in doubt:

### Remain calm #TakeFive #Tell2.

Verify via a trusted source and NEVER assume genuine. I want everyone to talk more about how to protect from fraud & cybercrime.

Help protect many, start by telling just 2 people offline & ask them to do the same. Fraud isn't just a scam it's a crime that often funds more serious crime & can lead to suicide. Don't let the con man con you!

Start by following PC Tony Murray, National Police Lead on Fraud. His Twitter accounts are @CityPoliceTell2 & @actionfrauduk.

Download the 'Little Book of Big Scams' at <https://www.met.police.uk>.

### Knocking on Nextdoor

Nextdoor is a social networking service for neighbourhoods. Users of Nextdoor submit their real names & addresses to the website & can invite their neighbours.

Posts made to the website are available only to other Nextdoor members living in the same neighbourhood. When neighbours start talking, good things happen. Discover the social network for your neighbourhood at [nextdoor.co.uk](http://nextdoor.co.uk) or download their app.



'Bullying Ends Here' is the insight of Canadian born Constable Tad Milmine. Born from his personal experience of years of abuse, neglect & bullying & his dream of one day being a Police

Officer, it is a heartfelt project that Constable Milmine spends countless hours with international presentations & staying in touch with 1,000's of young people adopting the 'I am always here for you' attitude.

If you are interested in a free 'Bullying Ends Here,' presentation, contact Constable Milmine at [bullyingendshere.ca](mailto:bullyingendshere.ca) or Imaan J. Williams, Vincent Square East NHW Scheme at [nwht@talktalk.net](mailto:nwht@talktalk.net).



SAFE is a comprehensive website that contains a plethora of information & advice for 11-16 yr old e.g. internet safety, gangs & group violence, drugs & alcohol, & anti-social behaviour. Do add it to your toolbar & refer to it often <https://.safe.met.police.uk>

### The UK Property Register

Immobilise is the world's largest FREE register of possession ownership details and together with its sister sites, the Police's NMPR & CheckMEND, forms a very effective tool in helping to reduce crime & repatriate recovered personal property to its rightful owners.

Immobilise can be used by members of the public or businesses to register their valued possessions or company assets & exclusive to Immobilise all account holders registered items & ownership details are viewable on the Police national property database the NMPR.

As a direct result of Immobilise there are hundreds of cases a week where property is returned, or information collected that assists the Police in investigating criminal activity involving stolen goods.



Safer Neighbourhoods is intrinsic to NHW. 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 & 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 your ward, contact your local team at [met.police.uk](http://met.police.uk). 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 dial 999, for less urgent & all other calls to the Met, dial 101.

### Any issues?

Your local police team want to hear from you. If you have any issues, pop in to a community contact session, phone or email them. Contact your local police at [met.police.uk](http://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.

- **Emergencies: 999**  
To report an emergency: immediate threat to life or property or a crime happening right now.
- **Non-urgent: 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: [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk) & enter your postcode.
- **Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111**  
Call anonymously with information about crime.

### 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, call Westminster 24 hours noise team at 020 7641 2000 & press 1.

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](http://westminster.gov.uk).

If it is an urgent noise complaint causing you a lot of disturbance call 0800 358 3783.

### Join Westminster NHW

Would you like to receive the following straight to your inbox?

- Monthly crime stats
- Borough Newsletter which includes updates on the cybercrimes happening locally
- Alerts from your local police team
- Free topical crime prevention talks
- Opportunities to get to know your local police officers
- Free crime prevention advice
- Discounts on some household insurance, padlocks, property marking kits e.g. smartwater.

Sign up to Westminster Neighbourhood Watch today. Email [Westminster.NHW@Met.Police.uk](mailto:Westminster.NHW@Met.Police.uk) with your name & postal address (so we can put you on the correct distribution list.).

In addition to reading this newsletter, you can keep up-to-date with breaking news on safety, security & community events by visiting: [www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhood-watch](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhood-watch).

### NHW Welcome Packs

Thinking of starting your own Neighbourhood Watch scheme?

Now, we have welcome packs available to order to help you on your way, thanks to [@coopukinsurance](https://www.coopukinsurance.com).

Find out more at: [ourwatch.org.uk](http://ourwatch.org.uk).

Don't forget to register your NHW at: [Westminster.NHW@Met.Police.uk](mailto:Westminster.NHW@Met.Police.uk) so we can offer support.

You can also order marketing products e.g. business cards, fridge magnets, etc. from [vistaprint.co.uk](http://vistaprint.co.uk) at a reasonable cost.

### Neighbourhood Watch online

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

- Westminster NHW Association: [www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhood-watch](http://www.westminster.gov.uk/neighbourhood-watch)
- National Neighbourhood Watch: [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)
- Police crime prevention advice: [www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention](http://www.met.police.uk/crimeprevention)

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

[@MPSWestminster](https://twitter.com/MPSWestminster)  
[@CityWestminster](https://twitter.com/CityWestminster)

### What NHW doesn't 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.

### 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 at [wnhwassociation@gmail.com](mailto:wnhwassociation@gmail.com). All contact details are kept strictly confidential.

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

