



# OUR NEWS

## Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association

[www.wnwa.btck.co.uk](http://www.wnwa.btck.co.uk) @CoWNWA wnhwassociation@gmail.com

### 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.

### Our Patch

Households & businesses in City of Westminster.

### 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**.

### Setting Up A Calling Tree

A phone tree is a great way to keep lots of people connected & can be used for a street, a block of flats, a local group or even family & friends. Mix it up: You could swap the names around each week so you get to chat to someone different!

First you'll need to gather everyone's telephone numbers (& have permission to use or share them). Starting with your name, fill in your phone tree so that each person calls two more people, until everyone in your group is included. Share the phone tree with the group so everyone knows who to call & make sure they have the numbers they need.

You might like to set a day or time of day so people know when to expect a call. Enjoy a chat! Soon everyone in the group will have spoken to at least two people. As the phone tree builds, each person can help reduce isolation & loneliness.

### Fire Safety

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 alarms each week, #TestItTuesday, it's as simple as pushing the button. Press! Beep! Scream! 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.

In our role as a Fire Safety Champion, local Firefighters asked us to help extend their fire

safety & fire prevention work to other Neighbourhood Watches & Residents' Associations in the City of Westminster & Lambeth Borough. Please contact us if you wish to participate. Police state this is definitely relevant & would be useful.

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="https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/">https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/</a>
Home Fire Safety Visit: <a href="https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/">https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/</a>
Or call ☎ 0800 028 4428

### Tips for staying safe

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

- Be alert & aware of what's 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 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. Dial 999 & ask for the police.
- If you discover that your things have been stolen after the fact, do not dial 999 as it's 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. [Stay safe.](#)

### Fraud Prevention

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 & NEVER assume genuine. We 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!

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](https://nextdoor.co.uk) or download their app.



'Bullying Ends Here' is the innovation 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 [www.bullyingendshere.ca](http://www.bullyingendshere.ca) or Imaan J. Williams, Vincent Square East NHW Scheme at [nwht@talktalk.net](mailto:nwht@talktalk.net).

### **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. [www.standrewsclub.com](http://www.standrewsclub.com)

### **The UK Property Register – Immobilise.com**

Immobilise is the world's largest FREE register of possession ownership details & 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. <https://www.immobilise.com/>



Safer Neighbourhoods is intrinsic to NHW. Your

Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT,) aka your local police, is a group of Met police officers dedicated to serving your community.

If you have concerns about day-to-day crime & disorder issues in the borough, visit <https://www.met.police.uk/> & enter your postcode. SNTs are not a 24-hour response team, in an emergency always dial 999, for less urgent & all other calls to the Met, dial 101. If you feel uncomfortable, please contact Imaan J. Williams at [nwht@talktalk.net](mailto:nwht@talktalk.net) & she will assist you.

### **Any issues?**

Your local police team want to hear from you. If you have any issues phone it in.

### **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-emergency: 101**  
To report a crime that has already happened, seek crime prevention advice or make police aware of any policing issues.
- **Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111**  
Call anonymously with information about crime.

### **Fridge Magnets**

2,198 Your Call Counts fridge magnets have been distributed to date. It includes the emergency numbers, ideal by the phone. If you would like a free Your Call Counts fridge magnet, please contact us. Feedback tells us the Your Call Counts fridge magnet makes people feel safe.

### **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 at <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/report-it>. If it is an urgent noise complaint causing you a lot of disturbance call 0800 358 3783, press 1.

### #ProjectServator

Business as usual today on #ProjectServator working with security at @zslondonzoo & @MadamTussauds to keep everyone safe. To find out more about Project Servator visit <http://met.police.uk/projectservator>.

### Neighbourhood Watch online

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

- Westminster Neighbourhood Watch:  
[www.wnwa.btck.co.uk/](http://www.wnwa.btck.co.uk/)  
[@CoWNWA](https://twitter.com/CoWNWA)
- 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.

### 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](http://www.wnwa.btck.co.uk) & [@CoWNWA](https://twitter.com/CoWNWA). If you

would like to be kept informed by email, please email us. All contact details are kept strictly confidential.

### 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 [nwht@talktalk.net](mailto:nwht@talktalk.net).

*This newsletter is provided to you by Westminster Neighbourhood Watch Association a voluntary organisation devoted to fostering a sense of community.*

