

# CROYDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

September 2021

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH IN ACTION

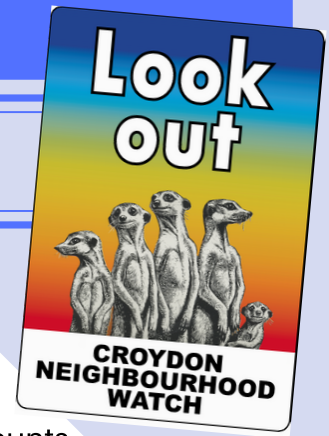


### Can you help?

As our current Hon. Treasurer will not be seeking re-election at our AGM on 6th November, we are looking for a volunteer to take over this

key role. The candidate will need experience in preparing monthly and annual accounts, dealing with the Charities Commission, making Gift Aid applications and would become a member of the Executive Committee. Anyone interested in helping the charity should contact the CBNWA office before meeting the Chairman and / or Treasurer.

Please contact [nhw@cbnwa.com](mailto:nhw@cbnwa.com)



### Helping out!

If you are out and about in the Parkfields area of Shirley, you may well see our lovely neighbourhood watch coordinator Pamela Shepherd litter picking.

Pamela litter picks on a daily basis earning her the title 'Street Champion' which in her eyes just means that she picks up other people's litter!

The 'broke' Croydon Council have supplied Pamela with a picker, orange bags (which are not very strong), and a yellow high vis jacket to complete the look, but Pamela prefers to not stand out and uses 'stronger' co-op carriers which she washes out and re uses.

She says it is very therapeutic as she cleans up around Wickham Road Shirley, McDonalds at Cheston Avenue and Bethlem Hospital grounds. However, Pamela will tell you the amount of rubbish resulting from McDonalds and also used face masks near the staff car park of the hospital has been vast and she has emailed both to complain about the extent of the problem, thank fully the hospital has improved.

We say thank you to Pamela for helping in the community and everything you do.

**NOTICE TO ALL CO-ORDINATORS:- Please check your emails for your invite to join us at our CBNWA Fundraising Dinner on 11th October**

## CBNWA Crime Prevention Day & AGM

**Saturday 6th November 2021**



Royal Russell School  
Coombe Lane, Croydon, CR9 5BX  
(Invitations will be sent out next week via email)

Great speakers are being lined up for you from your Safer Neighbourhood Team and many more

CBNWA



[www.cbnwa.com](http://www.cbnwa.com)  
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[@CBNWA](https://twitter.com/nhw)

Registered Charity  
number 1087760

# SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS

LOCAL POLICE, LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Insp. Steve Warnes and Insp. Cathy Thomas have been working Extinction Rebellion for several weeks, hence updates from the SNT for North & South of the borough are delayed. We will be sure to share this with you as soon as available.

## Sanderstead SNT have shared August information on their patch which will be relevant to all.....

### Burglary

In August, 4 residential and 1 business & community burglaries took place.

The burglaries that have taken place, have been committed during the daytime whilst people are at work or doing the school run. All residential properties have been accessed via the rear of the property. If you have a side access route to the back of your garden, make it as difficult as possible to access. During our reassurance visits, we have noticed a lack of security on properties from no burglar alarms, no security lighting, easy side access or unlocked or no side gate at all, rear garden fence too low, bins left out and can be used to jump over.

**Think like a burglar**, what are the weak points on your home and look to update.

**Burglars like to be in and out of the property as quickly as possible so they tend to target small valuable items such as Gold or Jewellery. Burglars know that Gold/Jewellery is generally kept in the bedroom, so try to keep your valuable items in another location, for example the loft.**



### E-Bicycles

We have been using the new E-Bicycle across Sanderstead and our othersisters ward.

Thank you to Trek Bikes and Panagua bikes who managed to supply these.

Thanks to all of the councillors and the residents association that helped fund the bikes.

### Motor Vehicle Crime

In August, 10 theft from motor vehicles and 3 theft of motor vehicles took place.

This month we seen a increase in motor vehicle crime, in particular a spate of Catalytic converters stolen from vehicles all across Croydon, Sutton including Sanderstead. 8 out of the 10 thefts were catalytic converters. Hybrid vehicles are most commonly targeted, as their metals are more valuable, but any vehicle can be at risk of catalytic converter theft.

Signs a catalytic converter theft is being committed:-

- a vehicle being raised using a car jack in a car park or residential area
- a loud drilling or cutting sound coming from underneath the vehicle. Don't assume it is builders.

These thieves don't always work under the cover of darkness but hiding in plain sight, in daylight with many cars and pedestrians around. register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of. More information available via the following link:-

<https://www.met.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/catalytic-converter-theft/>

All thefts were Land Rovers and all were taken overnight from outside the victims property. Keyless car crime is also on the up. If you have a 'keyless entry' car then make sure your keys are kept well away from doors and windows. Look to keep your car key in a screened box/tin/bag so that the signal can't be 'copied' and used to open your car - and don't forget to do the same with any spare set.



# Community Yard Sale

– a 'Reconnect with your Neighbours & Less to Landfill event'

by Vicky Bruce - Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator St. Oswald's Road

My neighbours and I thought you might like to know about this event which we held down our road one Saturday in August, as it might inspire others. This is the first time we have had such an event but not the last!

Having spent the last eighteen months of lockdown just waving to each other quickly as we scurried indoors after a dash to the shops etc., I was finding that many of my neighbours could not wait to reconnect with each other as restrictions eased, but had got out of the habit of just chatting. We needed a boost. We had also spent the lockdown weeks sorting out our houses and doing some serious de-cluttering. This resulted in bags of surplus 'stuff' that everyone wanted to re-home. Sadly, right now, many charity shops are full (or closed), and it was beginning to look that the only alternative was to put the unwanted items 'in the bin', which none of us really wanted to do.



Following some research on-line about events called 'Jumble Trails', I discussed with my neighbours about the possibility of having a smaller version of this, calling it a Community Yard Sale / Less to Landfill' event down our road. Neighbours with items to sell could set up tables in their front gardens, and others could come along, reconnect, chat and maybe grab a bargain. One person's unwanted item is another's treasure! We discussed some simple 'rules' & safety: keep house doors secure; keep all money on your person; sale tables to be on your land not on the pavement; sell anything you want – but keep it legal. Being an outdoor event and sticking to social distancing advice,

we agreed to have face masks ready if at any time there was a crowd of people at any one stall (thankfully, keeping things local, this did not happen). Keep the event short and sweet and stop when tired.

With some local advertising and posters in people's gardens, we promoted our event as:

**Let's be green: re-use, re-home and send less to landfill.....**



I am glad to report that the event was a great success. We were very lucky with the weather and families down my road set up their stalls with items to sell, with others coming along for a chat. Over £300 was raised for various charities with other funds made on the day used for some much needed holiday treats. Our '**Less to Landfill**' event showed we are all trying to do our bit for the planet.



For me the best part was seeing neighbours chatting to neighbours and getting to know each other better. Something we have all missed during lockdown. Neighbours need neighbours. People from other roads on our estate made notes of what we did, and hopefully may do the same down their road.



Feedback from my neighbours has been overwhelmingly positive, with a second such event planned for next year. I just thought you might find this an uplifting story. So much gloomy news elsewhere. **Please take care and stay safe.**

Could a 'Yard Sale' work for your road ?

- CBNWA could be your nominated charity with a % of sales being donated
  - We can also share details to nearby co-ordinators on your behalf and your local SNT to get the word out
  - CBNWA could come and hold a raffle
- SO MANY IDEAS, OPTIONS & FOOD FOR THOUGHT!**

A huge thank you to Vicky for sharing this with us and a massive well done to all of St. Oswald's Road who took part in this very productive community event.

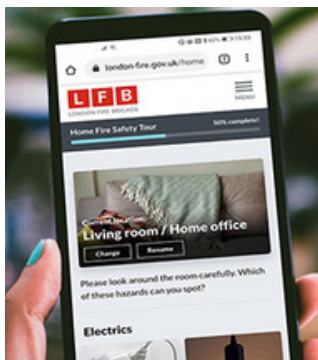
# Check your home fire safety in minutes



Many of us have a neighbour that we like to check in on, whether that's picking up some shopping for them or taking their bins out. Now there's a new way you can help, and this could make the biggest difference of all.

London Fire Brigade has created a new tool - **the Home Fire Safety Checker** - and it's designed to help people spot fire risks in their own home, or the home of anyone who they feel may be at risk. The free tool asks a few simple questions about the household, and then guides the user around each room in the home pointing out which fire hazards to look out for. They're then provided with tailored advice and practical tips, which you can email to yourself or the homeowner to refer back to. So please, check your own home, and then help a neighbour check theirs - you may well be surprised at what risks you've been overlooking for years.

Go to [www.london-fire.gov.uk](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk) click on **Safety** and **The Home** to find out more



## National Neighbourhood Watch partner with Deliveroo

On 10th June during Neighbourhood Watch Week, NNW launched a new project partnership with Deliveroo, providing their riders training to help keep communities safe across the UK. The optional training, created by Neighbourhood Watch and verified by the Metropolitan Police, will cover six topics over as many months, in the form of animated videos and simple quizzes. The partnership forms part of Deliveroo's new 'Full Life' campaign which launched last month, in which the company pledged to 'use [their] network as a force for good', and is in response for calls amongst their riders and staff to increase education in community safety. The topics are: rider vehicle safety, street harassment and female safety, domestic abuse, handling confrontation and bystander



training, modern slavery and human trafficking, and county lines and drug dealing. Alexandra Holmes, a Deliveroo rider said: "I am really pleased that Deliveroo is offering this free training for riders and hosting roundtables to discuss female safety. As a female Deliveroo rider it is really important to me that I can share my experiences with Deliveroo and personally get involved with Neighbourhood Watch in my local community."

More information is available on the ourwatch website if interested [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk)