

**RICHMOND  
UPON  
THAMES  
SAFER  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
BOARD**



**SPRING 2021 - SUPER-CONDUCTIVITY**

**Another newsletter? What is the Safer Neighbourhood Board?**

The Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB) was established in April 2014 and replaced the former Community and Police Partnership. We hold public meetings four times a year (currently by Zoom until the pandemic eases).

The role of the Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board is to bring together the police and communities to establish local policing and crime priorities, make sure the public is involved in community safety decisions, monitor police performance and confidence, and to fulfil a range of important specific functions. One of the most important is to ensure every ward has a functioning Police Liaison Group.

We also provide crime prevention advice, support youth projects, and encourage dialogue between the police and hard-to-reach or vulnerable groups.

Women's Safety is very much in the news, and we are re-introducing our "Go Girl" advice. This looks at staying safe from a slightly different angle; it is about changing your perceptions and gaining confidence from a few simple exercises. Have a look at "Go Girl".

**Why should I be remotely interested?**

The answer is quite simple; you live or work in this beautiful borough, which happens to be one of the safest in London in terms of crime, and you want to keep it that way. So, read on. It explains what we do, and how you can help, and become a **SUPER-CONDUCTOR** for your street, your community, your school, your business, your park or common, your Residents' Association, your place of worship, your society, your club, your friends and your family.

Meet some of the remarkable people who do this already. Bunny and her amazing Neighbourhood Watch network; Felicity and Barbara who founded Mums Against Muggings to keep our teenagers safe; John Murray who runs the Crime Prevention Partnership; Ravi Arora introduces Multicultural Richmond; and hear from our borough Inspector, Rebecca Robinson, and the Chief Superintendent of the four boroughs which make up the South West Command, Elizabeth Chapple.

We also describe some of the huge variety of the work we cover; in this edition, Carole Atkinson writes on the work of the Stop and Search Monitoring Group, and Peter Burrows-Smith on how we support Youth Projects.

**SUPER-CONDUCTORS** need to be **SUPER CONNECTED**, and this newsletter, we hope, is part of that process. Be inspired, join us [Richmondcpp-snb@gmail.com](mailto:Richmondcpp-snb@gmail.com)

[www.richmond.gov.uk/safer\\_neighbourhood\\_board](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/safer_neighbourhood_board)

## How to contact your local Ward Officer?

Each ward has its own dedicated Police Team; find yours below.

| Looking for your local Richmond Neighbourhood Policing Team? |                  |                | Barnes               | East Sheen | Fullwell & Hampton Hill | Ham & Petersham |
|--|------------------|----------------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Hampton  | Hampton North    | Hampton Wick   | Heathfield           | Kew        | Mortlake & Barnes       | North Richmond  |
| South Richmond   | South Twickenham | St. Margaret's | Twickenham Riverside | Teddington | West Twickenham         | Whitton         |

**METROPOLITAN POLICE** **Richmond**

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD INSPECTOR

I am Rebecca Robinson, your borough Neighbourhood Inspector. I love Richmond; your incredible sense of community is like nowhere else in London, and it is such a beautiful place.

I work closely in partnership with your Safer Neighbourhood Board to ensure that Richmond is policed by consent, and that the Metropolitan Police carry out their duties with your support. Help our partnership continue to keep us all safe, fairly, and consistently, by joining your ward Police Liaison Group.

Your group meets with the officers in your Safer Neighbourhood Team usually every three months for an hour or so, to discuss the crime reports and figures, exchange information about what is going on locally, find mutual solutions to problems such as Anti-Social Behaviour, and influence how you are policed not just in your ward, but throughout your borough.

If you are a resident, a student, run a business, work with a school, a church, a mosque, a synagogue, or represent an organisation in your ward, join us by going to [richmondplg44@gmail.com](mailto:richmondplg44@gmail.com). Police Liaison works; you talk, we listen.



## STOP AND SEARCH -Carole Atkinson

The Police power of Stop and Search is a very contentious and divisive issue. Is it fair to all ethnicities and ages? Does it take weapons off the street? But our communities do have the chance to really scrutinise the Stop and Search statistics and search details in every London borough.

Here in Richmond upon Thames we have a small, dedicated community monitoring group, the members of which regularly look at the stop and searches made locally. There are fewer searches than any other London borough. Redacted data of stops are perused to look for evidence of correct procedure and that stops are based on intelligence – not at random or according to a person's appearance. Body Worn Video of searches is also watched so any encounter can be fully observed from start to finish showing the behaviour and interaction between the police and the person stopped. Any issues identified are discussed with the police Stop and Search lead and if necessary, can be escalated to the Superintendent with responsibility for communities.

The chair of our group attends quarterly meetings of the Stop and Search Community Monitoring Network, comprising all London Borough Community Monitoring Group Chairs and sponsored by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. Issues of concern are discussed along with resolutions and good practice is shared amongst the boroughs. Urgent issues are passed to the police for action.

Do you have concerns about the powers of Stop and Search and how they are used? Have you or a friend or a family member had a "bad" Stop? Then join us, become part of the monitoring group. We meet, usually four times a year for a couple of hours. You will learn so much about police procedure and help both your community and the police get Stop and Search right.

Contact us to learn more [Richmond.StopandSearch@gmail.com](mailto:Richmond.StopandSearch@gmail.com)

## MUMS AGAINST MUGGINGS

With hurricane force, two local mums, Barbara Lingle-Elliott and Felicity Barkus, flew out of the quiet streets of Richmond to confront a serious spate of youth muggings which were occurring in the town centre in early Spring 2019. Most of the victims were young, school age teens, like their children. They quickly formed and spearheaded a local action group - Mothers Against Muggings - and began their work to engage and create activity in the local community to tackle this serious issue.

They designed a fantastic StreetW!se school assembly programme which took their project into primary and secondary schools across the borough - giving our young people simple hints and tips on how to physically stay safe and alert when they are out on the streets and what to do/who to contact if something happens. The key safety messages are delivered personally and passionately by them. They are short and simple for young people to understand and remember when they are out and about, on their own or with their friends.

Supported by the Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board, the Metropolitan Police and their local MP, Barbara and Felicity continue to spread their key safety messages across the borough, producing a travel card holder emblazoned with the StreetW!se safety advice and emergency contact numbers.



Thousands have been produced and are handed to young people as part of the assembly campaign. And why is this project different from other crime prevention projects? It is because of the sheer passion behind both these local mums, the passion to protect their children and others in their local community.



*Barbara Lingle-Elliott and Felicity Barkus with Chris Rhodes, Headmaster of Grey Court School*

It is why young people listen, remember, and respond – and why the youth mugging situation across the borough has reduced by 209 robbery victims (representing 50%) since they started their amazing work! <https://www.facebook.com/Mothersagainstmuggings/>

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## MULTICULTURAL RICHMOND

Ravi Arora

Multicultural Richmond is among our other member organisations. MCR is an apolitical, non-religious charity working towards a thriving, integrated and inclusive multicultural community in Richmond upon Thames and surrounding area. They work with the Police, the Council, and other organisations in an advisory and practical capacity.

They support and advise people of all ages from all cultures and races, particularly those who are vulnerable, disadvantaged, and isolated or have been racially harassed. They encourage them to participate in inclusive and integrated support programmes, events and activities.

We will report more fully on their work in our next edition.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - Bunny Farnell-Watson



I live on a street in Richmond where everyone knows each other, we have an annual Christmas party, street parties when possible, look after each other, and are good friends! All thanks to there being a fabulous Neighbourhood Watch on the street. Isn't this the sort of environment we all want to live in?

We moved to Richmond from the States 30 years ago, and I was amazed that there was no NWatch on our street. I was keen for our neighbourhood to be safe for our two children and everyone to know each other on our street, so I approached Richmond Police, and, through a letter drop, about 200 people attended a police meeting at St Mathias where the proposed South Richmond Neighbourhood Watch scheme was launched.

I started with 4 volunteer coordinators on four streets. I now have 55 coordinators in 53 streets/buildings and 1,941 members. I have a NWatch coordinators meeting once a year which I like the coordinators to attend, but otherwise each coordinator can run their own street as they wish. Each street has a completely different dynamic; mixed owned and rented houses, houses divided into flats and blocks of flats. The flow of information between the public and police is very important and also keeping up the enthusiasm of coordinators and members of the public.

New watches are normally set up and new members join when someone has been a victim of crime and realised that NWatch would be beneficial. An example of this was Church Road where the (now) NWatch coordinator was recently scammed by the 'french' parking meter scammer. As a result of a letter drop, we now have 18 members on Church Road and a WhatsApp group. Many new members have heard of our NWatch and ask to be part of it.

On my road, our WhatsApp group was set up at the start of Covid and helped neighbours if they needed groceries; now it is a very local help-line for our street. It is a perfect set up when you have both forms of communication - combining older ways with the new. Put very simply, Neighbourhood Watch brings people together, not just in terms of crime and safety, but in the wider sense of being there for one another, come what may. So, join your Watch, start one, become involved.

My adventure 30 years ago has made me thousands of friends, and, I hope, the streets of Richmond safer and friendlier. However, I feel it is the fact that I have stayed 'at the helm' of NWatch that my membership has continued to grow over the years. Now at the age of 70, I want to leave – but am finding it hard to find a replacement... could that be you?

**Want to know more about Neighbourhood Watch? [nhwatchrichmond@gmail.com](mailto:nhwatchrichmond@gmail.com)**

## YOUTH - Peter Burrows-Smith

The key criteria of all our youth work are Keeping Children and Young People Safe, Community Engagement, Crime Prevention, Crime Reduction and the provision of Diversionary Activities. The Safer Neighbourhood Board has always supported and funded these aims. Over the past 20 years, this has included the annual borough Youth Crime Conference. Sadly, this has been yet another casualty of the pandemic. But the Conference is only part of the support we give to the rich variety of youth outreach work. You will have read of the wonderful work done by Barbara and Felicity with their “Staying Safe” campaign, which we totally support.

Our involvement has further developed during the pandemic. As the various lockdowns have eased, and the kids have been able to get out, there has been an urgent need to provide suitable diversionary youth activities - especially for the most vulnerable. A particular example of this was the successful Heatham House programme, arranged by Achieving for Children last summer, and funded by ourselves. Here are some edited highlights from their report:



“The continued threat of coronavirus and potential risk of large gatherings in locations such as Teddington Lock, Twickenham Riverside and Twickenham Green pose a threat to the health and wellbeing of young people, their families and members of the public. This is in addition to any other of the numerous risk factors impacting on the 13 - 17 age range such as underage drinking, other forms of substance abuse, sexual health and the potential for crime and anti-social behaviour. Richmond Police have also highlighted these areas, in addition to Richmond Green, as spaces where young people are gathering in vast numbers. There were two serious incidents in these locations. The programme “U-turn” is a dual-purpose outreach and youth centre-based programme aimed at diverting young people from forming large gatherings at these locations and moving them onto activities being held at Heatham House Youth Centre.

The partnership project with the Safer Neighbourhood Board, in response to their identification of this problem, demonstrates our ability to respond quickly and creatively to the issue and create a safe carrot-rather-than-stick alternative to the problem in hand. It also allowed us to extend the youth centre’s offer and engage with more young people.

Despite the uncertainty and restrictions, the youth work team were able to deliver a programme of activities and sessions that engaged some of the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach young people and support them. We were unsure about the response and take up of the summer programme (would people be hesitant to attend the youth centre after lockdown for example?) but we were pleased with the number of young people engaged with the programme of positive, diversionary, and educational activities. Online evaluations were sent out to participants/parents for completion with 55 responses coming back with mostly positive feedback around 4 key themes; having a safe space to meet friends and make new ones; young people becoming independent and building in confidence; enjoyment of the activities on offer; and finally, that there was no cost barrier to attending”.

This project is just one example of our investment in Youth. Funding will be a huge post-pandemic problem in the coming years, but we are committed to helping our young people and will do so in partnership with other organisations and charities.

## SAFETY AND CONFIDENCE FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS - Stop being afraid, Go Girl!

Wendy Kyrle-Pope

The tragic death of Sarah Everard has re-opened the whole issue of women's safety on London's streets. Most women have experienced some kind of abuse, near-misses; a few have experienced actual violence whether sexually motivated or a robbery or mugging for a phone or cash. We are told that young men are many times more likely to be attacked than women but still we fear, despite the fact that stranger murder is very rare.

"Go Girl" is designed to build women's confidence by teaching us to rely on our own bodies to react to a threat, and to give us that air of control and strength that could send out a message to a would-be attacker perhaps not to bother, try someone else.

I devised this project after one of my friends was very horribly sexually assaulted on the Tube a couple of years ago; she realised that the men who sat down on either side of her had evil intentions, but her voice froze in her throat when she knew she should scream, and her legs were paralysed when she knew she ought to move. This is a strong, young, professional woman, who runs, sails, works out, and yet she was rendered powerless, and froze.

So "Go Girl" is designed for her and all women and girls.

Basically "Go Girl" 's message is to teach yourself to shout very loudly at will (No! Stop! Oi! - doesn't matter what; the word or words designed to suit your individual throat and mouth) without having to think about it. You also teach yourself to move almost automatically at the slightest whiff of danger or unpleasantness "Eyes, Thighs, Rise". By practising some very simple exercise, you can bypass the brain (which freezes) and your body takes over to protect you.

One unforeseen by-product of this very simple project was that women who had already been victims of attacks, muggings or terrifying near-misses found the exercises helpful in regaining their confidence, as these were something concrete and positive they could do for themselves.

Another useful aspect is that you can help others by being able to shout and move to help them.

"Go Girl" is not anti-men - indeed the leaflet says "not just for girls"; it is about empowerment and confidence. The link to the short news article promoting Go Girl and crucially, the brochure itself, can be found here: <https://resilienceprogramme.co.uk/richmond-safer-neighbourhood-board-go-girl-project-promotes-key-safety-messages-for-girls-and-young-women>.

But we need you to help us get the message out, to "teach" Go Girl to your friends and family. Training takes a few minutes, but those few minutes will help you strengthen all the women you talk to, and perhaps save them from the terrible experience my friend suffered. And there are other projects like "Ask for Angela" and safety apps for phones which you could add.

Please be a SUPERCONDUCTOR FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS and contact me on the SNB email [richmondcpp-snb@gmail.com](mailto:richmondcpp-snb@gmail.com)

[www.richmond.gov.uk/safer\\_neighbourhood\\_board](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/safer_neighbourhood_board)



## CRIME AWARENESS AND SCAM KNOWLEDGE

John Murray (Chair, Crime Prevention Outreach Committee)

A lot of activity goes on in this borough under the above subject – much unseen! One such activity is the Crime Prevention Outreach Committee set up about two years ago to continue and develop the work of Sgt Les Jackson in giving scam prevention advice. This committee has 19 active members which includes volunteers with experience in a particular field, the Police Inspector and other specialist Police officers, the NHS, Trading Standards, the Council and the Nat West bank.

We all work together to support each other and produce practical ideas to promote crime prevention knowledge. Specialist leaflets include travel safety for women and girls, and many cover knowledge of fraud and telephone scams. We were running presentations on these subjects but, due to the Pandemic, such live sessions had to be suspended but online sessions have just been launched.

Watch out for announcements on Twitter, Nextdoor, this newsletter and Online Watch Link or “OWL” - a great information tool; join by going to <https://www.owl.co.uk/index.htm>

There are several reasons why this committee exists. Richmond is one of the safest boroughs in London, but it does attract scammers and others who target us as an affluent area.

Telephone scammers could also target us by using the area codes for high value parts of the borough. I want to mention telephone scamming particularly – it is obvious from the comments I read that the sheer volume of these calls purporting to be from Amazon/HMRC/Microsoft etc is not really understood. Thousands of these are made daily! Overseas call centres have machines that dial out numbers at random and, if a human answers, then that call is switched to someone pretending to be from one of the above or similar. It's no use blocking the

number as next time it will be from a different source, usually disguised as something that looks like a UK area code. The more sophisticated scammers tailor their number to look as the one from the bank or organisation that they pretend to be.

I see a lot of comments about these calls such as, “All my calls go through my answer phone”, “I don't answer any calls where I don't recognise the number” and “I answer them and try to engage with the scammer”. The telephone preference service (worth subscribing to stop unsolicited UK direct selling calls) cannot do much about all these as they come from overseas, so the only answer is a call blocker.

A proper one blocks all calls that you haven't programmed in – others are told to identify themselves first if they don't the call does not go through. I suggest you look at the trading standards response as it confirms this. <https://www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/news/scam-and-nuisance-phone-calls-return-to-precovid19-levels/> I have great sympathy with the Police and Action Fraud as they can't deal with the volume of these calls – so your only answer is as above.

The message is to never take advice or action from an unsolicited call. Your bank or the police will never ask you to transfer money to a safe account or contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN or full password.

HMRC will never notify you about tax refunds, penalties or ask for your personal or financial information through emails, texts or phone calls. Do not give anyone remote access to your computer following a cold call or unsolicited text. Contact your bank or an organisation directly using a known email or phone number (like the one on the website or on your statement). **Stay safe!**

## A WORD FROM THE TOP - CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT ELISABETH CHAPPLE



She writes: “Richmond is one of the four boroughs (the others being Wandsworth, Merton and Kingston) in what is known as the South West Basic Command Unit.

I started working with the Richmond Safer Neighbourhood Board in 2020 when I became policing commander for the area and am very impressed with the way the Board operates. There is a dedicated and knowledgeable Board leadership and membership who strike a consistent and well-judged balance between holding me to account as policing lead and bringing agencies together to work collaboratively on important issues. It provides a voice for the community through its outreach work, projects, and support for Police Liaison Groups, Neighbourhood Watch, Stop and Search Monitoring and its member organisations. The Board also represents our borough on Pan-London organisations, and works with Scotland Yard and the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime.”



**Richmond-upon-Thames Safer Neighbourhood Board** is currently jointly chaired by Carole Atkinson, Peter Burrows-Smith and Wendy Kyrle-Pope.

**Carole** is the go-to person for Stop and Search, 999 and emergency calls, Neighbourhood Watch, OWL and crime prevention. She also sits on various London-wide boards for Stop and Search and Policing.

**Peter** oversees Youth projects, acts as our Treasurer and liaises with the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime.

**Wendy** looks after police relations and project design, chairs the Borough’s Independent Advisory Group and sits on the London-wide Advisory Group for Front Line policing. She also advises the British Transport Police, who look after railways and underground. And is the editor of this newsletter.

You can contact all of us on [richmondcpp-snb@gmail.com](mailto:richmondcpp-snb@gmail.com)

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