

Safer Clerkenwell

How the police and the council are making your neighbourhood safer

Winter 2010



We are Clerkenwell Safer Neighbourhoods team.

You've told us your ward priorities include:

- Street drinking in Vernon Square
- Burglary
- Anti-social behaviour by young people.

Clerkenwell Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) and Islington Council are working together to make your local area a safer place. If you have any concerns about crime or anti-social behaviour in your neighbourhood, please let us know (see back page for contact details).

Did you know?

- Robbery has gone down by a third in Clerkenwell ward this year?

From the Metropolitan Police Service in partnership with Islington Council

Safer Clerkenwell

Tackling street drinking in Vernon Square

The Clerkenwell ward panel decided street drinking and anti-social behaviour in Vernon Square were priorities for the ward. Clerkenwell Safer Neighbourhoods team (SNT) has responded by stepping up patrols and securing extra funding from Islington Council to support our work in the area. Warnings with a 48 hour area ban have been issued to a number of people behaving anti-socially in the area. Anti-social behaviour reduced as a result of the action taken, and outreach services are working with several people to get them support with drink or drug problems and housing.

However, our work has had limited success due to the high turnover of groups of people drinking in the square, as many of them are tourists staying in nearby hotels and hostels. The team is working with Islington Council to take forward a proposed Controlled Drinking Zone to tackle this. We would like to hear your views on the proposals. Please contact us on **020 7421 0218** for more information.

More localised policing

Islington Police have responded to residents' concerns by increasing their focus on neighbourhood policing, developing a Safer Neighbourhoods (SN) Task Force who will work with the existing Safer Neighbourhoods teams to tackle problems such as large groups of young people gathering on estates, anti-social behaviour on mopeds, drugs and drug dealing and undercover operations.



And more police on the beat

Islington Council is funding a South Islington problem-solving police team. This new police team will provide extra cover at weekends and evenings, and will focus on problem areas such as housing estates and parks.

We already have a North Islington problem-solving police team, which has been working with Safer Neighbourhoods teams to tackle long-standing anti-social behaviour problems.

Anti-social behaviour by young people

Clerkenwell SNT officers are working with our new Safer Neighbourhoods Task Force to respond to reports of anti-social behaviour by young people at a particular address. Police intelligence and information received from local residents enabled us to apply for a search warrant and the address was searched by the Task Force.

There were clear signs of drug dealing from the flat and a large quantity of cannabis was found. A second address was searched and a cannabis factory was found. Reports of anti-social behaviour in and around the first address have reduced and the team is seeking an order so we can close the property. We rely on information from residents to help tackle anti-social behaviour and crime. If you have any concerns, please report them.

Tackling burglary

Residential burglary remains a priority for Clerkenwell SNT. We have been concentrating on crime prevention, visiting residents on the ward, and offering property marking for valuable items and prevention advice. We are visiting all victims of burglary to ensure they are kept informed of any news or progress being made with their case. We also visit the victim's immediate neighbours to offer a point of contact, crime prevention advice and property marking. Your help is needed to tackle burglary – if you would like your property marked, please contact the team by emailing Clerkenwell.snt@met.police.uk. For prevention tips go to www.islington.gov.uk/safer

End of the road for illegal minicabs

Islington Council is working with the police, Transport for London and other partners to tackle:

- Illegal parking
- Illegal vehicles
- Misuse of disabled blue badges
- Large groups of cab drivers on the street
- Cab drivers dropping litter

Local residents and businesses complained to Islington Council about minicab firms along Rosebery Avenue and Eastman Street. We ran checks on drivers, vehicles and parking to ensure they were not breaking the law.

Over the last year we have made 59 visits to minicab offices across Islington, and inspected 328 minicabs. Forty-two of these were found to be unfit for use. Please use a licensed minicab office – if you have any concerns or suspicions, please report them. Go to www.islington.gov.uk/safer to find out how you can check if your local cab firm or driver is licensed.

Make sure your bike isn't just for Christmas

If you got a nice new bike for Christmas, make sure you lock it securely to make it harder for thieves to steal.

Islington Police have been using decoy bikes in hotspots to catch would-be thieves, and have already made six arrests in one hotspot area. Two cycle shops are offering a 10% discount on all safety and security items to cyclists who have a safer bikes voucher. The shops taking part are Mosquito Bikes, 123 Essex Road, and Finsbury Cycles, 185 Seven Sisters Road.

Clerkenwell SNT will be handing out vouchers, contact us to find out how you can get yours.

For simple tips to prevent your bike being stolen, or to download a discount voucher, go to www.islington.gov.uk/saferbikes. Remember; **always** lock your bike – even if you are leaving it on a shared balcony or hallway.

And register your bike at www.immobilise.com so if it is stolen, police can return it.

And if you are unlucky enough to have your bike stolen?

- Report it! Call **0300 123 1212**

Islington Council are installing and upgrading sheds, stands and other safer parking initiatives. If you want safer cycling stands in your area, contact volkan.ulucay@islington.gov.uk.

Want to stop drinking or taking drugs?

If you would like help to make your 2010 a year free of drink or drugs, please contact the Islington NHS drink and drugs helpline on 08000 66 55 25 for information, advice and support. Don't leave it another year.

We are listening to you

You see it, hear it, report it. We deal with it.

Help us by reporting any problems so that we can take action.

Graffiti, fly posting, dog fouling, fly tipping:
Islington Council - **020 7527 2000**

Anti-social behaviour or drug dealing:
Clerkenwell SNT on **020 7421 0218**

For non-emergencies, or to report a crime which has already taken place call **0300 123 1212**.

Remember in an emergency always dial **999**.

If you are Deaf or have hearing difficulties you can use a textphone, dial **18000** in an emergency, or if your call is not an emergency - **18001 0300 123 1212**.

Safer web pages

You can find these numbers and other information about crime and safety at Islington Council's new webpages www.islington.gov.uk/safer. Please have a look and let us know what other information about crime and safety you would like to see there.

Want more information on crime figures?

Go to www.met.police.uk/crimefigures. You can type in your postcode for information about your ward and the borough of Islington.

Decide Clerkenwell's police priorities

If you don't agree with the three priorities on the front of this newsletter, why don't you join our Safer Neighbourhoods ward panel? Then you can tell us what is a priority for you as the panel sets local police priorities. Contact Clerkenwell SNT for more information.

Meet Clerkenwell Safer Neighbourhoods team

We hold regular drop-in meetings, where you can come and talk to us about any concerns you have.

For updated meeting information go to www.met.police.uk/teams/islington/clerkenwell

The dates of our next meetings – all at Finsbury Library, St John's Street – are:
2 February, 3 – 4.30pm 1 March, 3 – 4.30pm
6 April, 3 – 4.30pm

TEAM MEMBERS

Sgt Anne French	PC John Sherlock
PC James Ryder	PCSO James Toy
PCSO Victoria Burns	PCSO Nasir Abusido

CONTACT

Clerkenwell Team, Islington Police Station
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You can find a map of your ward and details of other Safer Neighbourhoods teams by using the online postcode search on www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods
Your SNT is not a 24-hour emergency response team. In an emergency always dial 999.

To request this newsletter in large print, Braille, audiotape or disk format please call 020 7527 3180. To request this newsletter in another language call 020 7527 3180.