

I am very pleased to report that the role of Neighbourhood Watch, TWRA, The Good Shepherd Church and St Peter's in helping to establish and run Community Support during the COVID emergency in Tadworth & Walton was recognised with a Volunteer's Award from the Chair of Surrey County Council.

Health alert

The COVID statistics relating to Surrey are now published fortnightly. You can see them in full here:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/coronavirus/local-outbreak-plan/figures-and-statistics/full-report>

The latest report dated 28th June actually included national data up to 18th June showing 2.5% of the population having COVID. However, when I checked the latest government national data up to 24th June it is now showing 3.35% infected which is approximately 1 in 30. This is a further dramatic increase but is still less than the 5% which was reported in April. Applying the current 3.35% to Tadworth & Walton would suggest that about 335 individuals in our 2 villages would have had the disease which would be an average of 4 in every road.

Epsom & St Helier Hospital reported 38 new admissions with COVID in the week up to 19th June as compared with 25 new COVID admissions in my last health report.

It is important that we still continue with basic precautions such as washing hands, opening windows and wearing masks in crowded indoor spaces.

Test Kits

Please remember that Lateral Flow Test Kits are no longer freely available unless you belong to particular vulnerable groups or are employed with the Health Service or similar designated professions.

Note you can purchase Lateral Flow Test Kits from reputable suppliers such as Boots for about £2 each.

Long COVID

It is estimated that over 2% of the British Population is suffering from various symptoms of Long COVID. These include breathlessness, fatigue, loss of taste, brain fog, muscle pain and many more. Epsom and St Helier are one of the leading hospitals in Surrey treating these conditions but sufferers need to be referred by their GP.

Road Closure Reports

Please note that the One.Network web site which used to allow residents of Surrey to view planned future roadworks 3 months ahead will be only allowing that data to be accessible to commercial licence holders although it can still be used to see roadworks over the next two weeks.

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/roadworks#planned>

Epsom Lane North roadworks are forecast to complete by July 8th.

New planned works include:

Epsom Lane South will be subject to road closures and delays 12 – 15th July.

Shelvers Spur roadworks 18 – 22nd July.

Junction of Station Approach & Tadworth Street roadworks 12 – 15th July

Crime Report

Police Burglary reports 16th – 30th June

21/06/2022 between 09:10 to 09:50. Grange Meadow, Banstead. Residential Burglary. Method of Entry- Not confirmed at this time. Stolen: Watches and Jewellery.

27/06/2022 between 12:45 to 18:30. Southern Lane, Chipstead. Residential Burglary. Method of Entry- Forced entry through conservatory door, located at the rear of the property. Stolen: Not confirmed at this time but including watches and jewellery.

Catalytic Converter Thefts 16th – 30th June

There have been 6 catalytic converter thefts in this time frame. These have happened at The Moors and Malmstone Avenue in Merstham, Weatherill Close and Aurum Close in Horley, Shirley Avenue in Salfords and Arbutus Close in Woodhatch. They have been taken from Toyota Auris, Toyota Corolla, Honda Jazz, Honda Civic and BMW.

SCAM Reports – Surrey & Sussex Police Fraud Report (longish read)

Doorstep Crime:

Sussex and Surrey police have seen a number of recent reports of rogue trader fraud. One victim, a 94-year-old woman from West Surrey reported having a male knock on her door offering to jet wash her driveway. The male claimed it would cost £750 but would mean she didn't have weeds growing on her driveway for up to 5 years. Sounding like a good deal the victim explained she did not have this much to hand and would need time to withdraw it. The males tried to pressure the victim into withdrawing more cash immediately but then settled on taking £150 cash and returning another evening to complete the works. The victim handed over £150 cash trusting these males would return. They didn't return.

How to protect yourself:

Do not engage with cold callers

Always shop around for the best price; obtain more than one quote for work to compare prices and products

Always check traders or doorstep callers' identity; ask to see ID, check the traders is a member of a reputable trade body

Do not hand over a cash deposit or pay in full before any work has been completed

Double check facts and read the small print; make sure you fully understand the cost, what work is expected, time scales and service expectations. Carefully check any contracts you are asked to sign to ensure you are happy with the terms and conditions.

Its ok to say no, do not feel pressured into making a quick agreement or decision. Remember it is your doorstep and your decision.

Ticket Fraud:

A 62-year-old woman from Sussex reported a ticketing scam. The victim saw 2 concert tickets advertised on Facebook marketplace and took interest. The seller offered 2 tickets for £100 and claimed he would send them via recorded delivery. The victim asked to pay via PayPal, but the seller asked for a bank transfer only. The victim transferred £100 to the seller under the impression he was posting the tickets to her. The victim after a few days started to grow suspicious when no tickets arrived. The victim questioned the seller's authenticity and he claimed if the tickets had got lost it was her problem. The victim was later blocked by the seller and realised she had been scammed.

How to protect yourself:

1. Only buy tickets from the venue box office, promoter, official agent or reputable ticket exchange site.
2. Paying by credit card offers better protection, so use it where you can check sellers' reviews online, have others reported to not receive the ticket / item they purchased? Do others suggest to stay clear?
3. If you are buying from an individual, always pay safely. Do not bank transfer, instead use a credit card or a safe payment site that offers you protection.
4. Confirm the event details are the same as the event advertisement, check the date, time, location, and seating options.

5. It is always safest to book tickets through official sellers that are members of the self-regulatory body the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR), as anything else could be a scam.
6. If a site shows the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers (STAR) logo, you can check if they really are members by contacting STAR directly.

Fake HMRC letters:

Sussex and Surrey Police have seen several reports recently from victims reporting to have received a letter claiming to be from HMRC. The letter details that the victim has overpaid on their tax and is due a refund. The letter states that a cheque has been sent to a particular company for them to receive the refund on the victim's behalf and to redeem their refund the victim must fill in an online form with the company giving all their personal and financial details.

How to protect yourself:

- Contact HMRC to check the communication you have received is genuine. Contact information for HMRC can be found on [Gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).
- Do not provide any personal or financial details via a link given, cold call or email.
- Never use the contact details provided in the letter to check authenticity, always find genuine contact details online.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Holiday Booking:

If you are planning to book a holiday this summer, here is how you can keep yourself protected from fraudulent holiday offers.

- Book a holiday directly with an airline, hotel, or a travel agent. Check whether they're a member of the Association of British Travel Agents.
- If booking through a holiday homeowner or letting agent; ask them questions about the booking, room, location, and area. And be extra cautious if asked to pay by cash or bank transfer.
- Always pay via credit or with debit card for extra protection.
- Do not reply to unsolicited emails, texts, calls or social media contact with out of the blue holiday offers.
- Always check that the website you are booking on has a padlock icon in the address bar.
- Check reviews online for holiday homeowners, booking sites and holiday adverts before booking.

Have you been a victim of fraud?

- Surrey Police on 101 or visit www.surrey.police.uk
- Sussex Police on 101 or visit www.sussex.police.uk

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud call:

Report fraud or attempted fraud, by contacting Action Fraud at http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/report_fraud or call 0300 123 2040.

Upcoming Events

July 9th 12 – 4pm Church of the Good Shepherd Summer Fete with BBQ.

The Village Kitchen light lunch events will continue on the second Saturday of each month the next one being July 9th Saturday July 16th Coffee Shop, from 10.30am–12noon in the Good Shepherd Church and every subsequent Saturday.

July 17th 2 – 5.30pm Open Garden at 41 Shelters Way as part of the National Garden Scheme admission Teas sold by TWOAT.

Aug 21st 2 – 5.30pm Open Garden at 41 Shelters Way as part of the National Garden Scheme admission Teas sold by TWOAT.

Sept 3rd 10am – 5pm Model Railway Exhibition Good Shepherd Hall

Sept 3rd 2pm “Alice in Wonderland” Breech Lane Playing Fields.

Sept 10th Good Shepherd Hall Quiz Night with Bingo.

For details of the many Group Activities and Events organised by Banstead u3a visit here <https://u3asites.org.uk/banstead/home>

Please let me know if you have an event taking place in the next 2 months.

Keep well

Mike Fox

For Community Support & Neighbourhood Watch

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