

Health alert

The weekly COVID statistics relating to Surrey were published yesterday – 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>

Unfortunately the latest data for Reigate & Banstead shows a further very significant increase in infection rates with a rate of 1155 new cases in 7 days per 100,000 population this is approaching a 20% increase on the previous week's 969 new cases per 7 days per 100,000 population. Epsom & St Helier Hospital reported 82 new COVID admissions in the 7 days up to March 13th as compared with 68 in the 7 days up to March 6th which is also an increase of 20%. These figures would suggest that around 115 individuals would have contracted COVID in Tadworth & Walton during this period.

Test Kits

You should check availability and obtain a code before trying to get one from a local pharmacy. Remember **the availability of free test kits is planned to cease after 1st April.**

[Order a lateral flow test online](#)

Neighbourhood Watch Alert

In addition to the theft of Catalytic Converters Surrey Police are concerned at the increase in thefts of keyless entry cars

Keyless car theft is something we've seen on the rise in Surrey. Criminals are using increasingly sophisticated technology to break into and drive your car right off your street.

If your car has keyless entry or keyless start functions it can leave you vulnerable to vehicle thieves who use relay devices to hack into and steal keyless cars. It is estimated that thieves now exploit this technology in approximately 90% of vehicle thefts in the UK, and it can take less than 60 seconds.

Below are some of our top tips for securing your vehicle from keyless car theft:

For as little as £5 you can protect your car by using a signal blocking pouch, also known as a Faraday bag. This is a simple, affordable level of security that blocks a key's signal due to metallic material lining the pouch.

Car keys are often kept near the front of a property, close enough for thieves to hack the signal and break into your vehicle. Consider storing keys in signal suppression bags, disabling the wireless signal or turning off keyless entry if possible.

Not got a keyless car? It is still essential to store car keys and fobs out of sight. As a rule, if thieves can see keys through a window or letterbox, they can steal them.

Old-fashioned tech can be the most effective. A Pedal Box is a bright yellow metal box made to wrap around your foot pedals and prevent access to them. Steering wheel locks are also highly effective, and both can be easily seen through a car window and act as a deterrent.

CCTV can deter potential thieves and play a pivotal role in any future police investigations. You can get cameras for all budgets, including doorbell video cameras. Already got CCTV? Make sure lenses are clean and free of obstructions such as garden foliage and cobwebs, and check the camera is in a good position to capture unwanted visitors to your home.

Most of us treat our garages like an outdoor storage room. Garden supplies, Christmas decorations, fitness equipment that started gathering dust around February...but do you actually use your garage to store your car? Keeping your car in a locked, secure garage is one of the most effective ways of protecting your vehicle from thieves.

Improve the chances of recovering your vehicle and catching car thieves by installing a tracker. Trackers can help you find vehicles even if they are concealed from sight in shipping containers, disguised or hidden underground. They can

also aid police investigations, helping us bring car thieves to justice. There are lots of different vehicle tracker companies offering a variety of payment and security plans. Do your research to pick a tracker that works for you, and make sure it holds some form of official approval or accreditation.

We see numerous examples of work vans being targeted for tools due to their value, or other vehicles broken into if there are signs of valuables inside such as GPS holders or phone charging cables. Although we know it isn't always possible, please remove any valuables that can be stored elsewhere and lock and secure vehicles when you leave them. Also check that your insurance covers any potential theft from your van.

Watch our short animation with some of our key tips:

<https://youtu.be/oGAXw2A5IPY>

Read more on our website:

<https://www.surrey.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/keeping-vehicles-safe/vehicle-safe-and-sound/>

Upcoming Events

Please note the date for the Friends' of the Children's Trust Easter Egg Trail was incorrectly given in my last bulletin although the linked poster was correct - it should have been Saturday April 2nd see details below.

The Saturday Coffee Shop every Saturday from 10.30am – 12noon in the Good Shepherd Church

"6 x Soup Saturdays" will be available from 12noon to 1.30pm in Christchurch Hall each Saturday from Saturday March 5th until Saturday April 9th. Note these soup lunches will replace the normal Village Kitchen events on the second Saturday of each month during this period. Monies raised by these lunches will be donated to "Walton Open Group" Charities

Afternoon Tea with Live Entertainment from the Community Choir Saturday March 26th from 3pm at The Riddell Hall, Walton tickets £5 booking essential revleahbates@outlook.com

Family GameShow Night in the Good Shepherd Hall organised by the Church Social Committee from **6.30pm on Saturday March 26th**. Tickets at £5 per adult £3 per child from 01737 362610

Easter Egg Trail in Jubilee Woodland on Saturday April 2nd from 11am to 3pm participation £5 in aid of the Friends of the Children's Trust. Please see link to a poster by my signature below.

Good Shepherd Parish Lunch Sunday April 3rd – note you must pre-book on the list in the Church

April 4th – April 13th Easter Eggstravaganza at Tattenham library with free holiday workshops for children aged 2 – 7 years old. Please see a link by my signature below for details of daily activities.

OPEN GARDEN and Hot x Buns in aid of The Friends of The Childrens' Trust on **WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL at The Firs, The Hoppety, Tadworth KT20 5RQ 10.30am - 1pm** Refreshments, Raffle and Plants for Sale. Entry £5 No Parking in The Hoppety except for those with walking difficulties. Please see a link by my signature below.

For more details contact suehortsoc@btinternet.com

Walton Open Group will be resuming its normal meetings **7.30pm on Tuesday 19th April.**

Open Garden in aid of TWOAT at 41 Shelves Way from **2pm on Sunday April 24th Teas available**

Good Shepherd Parish Lunch Sunday May 1st – note you must pre-book on the list in the Church

Open Garden in aid of TWOAT at Meon House, Meon Close from **2pm on Monday May 2nd Teas available**

Walton May Pageant & Fayre Saturday May 21st

Tadworth & Walton Residents' Association AGM from 7pm on May 24th at Chinthurst School

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

Keep well

Mike Fox

For Neighbourhood Watch & Community Support

01737 350452

Attachments

- [Children_Trust_Easter_Egg_Hunt.pdf](#)
- [Hoppety_Open_Garden_2022_poster.jpg](#)
- [Tattenham_Library_Kids_Easter_Eggstaviganser.pdf](#)