

## TWRA Update

TWRA volunteers have continued to visit households whose membership is currently lapsed to explain how they can renew from this year. Unfortunately Data Privacy legislation means that address and email details are not allowed to be retained for individuals with whom organisations have not had transactions for a reasonable length of time.

TWRA are currently trying to organise dates for festive events in December but the situation is complicated by potential clashes with World Cup Football Matches. It is expected that the switching on of Christmas Lights in Tadworth will take place on December 2<sup>nd</sup> but possible dates for Carols in Jubilee Woodland are still under review.

I will publish dates for these events and similar ones in Walton when I have details.

## Health alert

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

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/health-and-welfare/coronavirus/local-outbreak-plan/figures-and-statistics/full-report>

The latest report dated 4th Oct actually included national data up to 17<sup>th</sup> Sept showed 1.6% of people in England are estimated to have COVID this is a slight increase on the July/August figures. Anecdotally I am aware of a number of people contracting COVID in Tadworth & Walton over the last few weeks. The national figures would suggest 15 cases in Tadworth & Walton.

Epsom & St Helier Hospital reported 44 new admissions with COVID in the week ending 26 Sept as compared with 31 new admissions in the week up to 28th Aug. Please note these are admissions of people who are testing positive for COVID but are not necessarily being admitted because of the effects of COVID.

## 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.

## Autumn Booster COVID Jab Campaign

- The primary aim of the [COVID-19 autumn booster programme](#) is to increase immunity in those at higher risk of severe COVID over the winter months.
- People who are at higher risk, **including those over 50**, frontline health and care staff and those with weakened immune systems, **are now** eligible to book a COVID booster vaccine through the [National Booking Service](#).
- The [Pfizer bivalent vaccine](#) will be used as part of the autumn COVID booster programme. This follows the latest advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation (JCVI).
- The nearest vaccination centre for us is Walton Pharmacy.

## REMEMBER:

The COVID-19 vaccine is an evergreen offer. If you haven't already taken it up, you can still do so. Book a vaccine appointment [online](#) or find the nearest [walk in](#) vaccination site.

- 1st and 2nd doses if you're aged 5 years old and over
- additional primary doses for people with a severely weakened immune system aged 5 years old and over
- 1st booster for people aged 16 years old and over, plus at-risk children aged 12 to 15 years old

- a seasonal booster (autumn booster) for some people, including those aged 75 years or over, those who are at higher risk or who are pregnant, and frontline health and social care workers

#### **COVID-19 vaccination for pregnant and breastfeeding women**

- Incorrect information about the COVID vaccine and pregnancy is spreading online. Extensive data shows the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and highly effective for pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- [MHRA](#) advice remains that the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective during pregnancy and breastfeeding. **Pregnant women are also be eligible for an autumn booster.**
- For more information visit The [Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists \(RCOG\)](#) and [Royal College of Midwives \(RCM\)](#) and [NHS.UK](#)

#### **Influenza Vaccine**

Doctors' surgeries have started to offer the 'Flu Jab to eligible patients it is strongly recommended that these offers are taken up.

#### **Road Closure & Disruption Reports**

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

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

Work on the telephone mast by the Good Shepherd Hall may cause disruption to traffic along **Station Approach** but information concerning the new date for this is still awaited. It will at some stage cause temporary closures to **Station Approach**.

#### **Police & Crime Reports**

I am aware of two local incidents via reports from residents.

There was an attempted break in on Cross Road in Tadworth at 8.30pm on 12<sup>th</sup> October when 3 men were detected in a rear garden by automatic lighting and CCTV. The men realised they had been detected and made off. The incident has been reported to the Police and CCTV footage made available to them.

A black and red Ford Fiesta GF65 KUS (see picture link by my signature below) was stolen from outside the owner's home on Long Walk at around 4am on October 12<sup>th</sup>. If anybody has information about this vehicle please report it to the Police via 101 or online and let me know so I can inform the owner.

#### **Police Burglary reports**

There were no Police reports relating to burglaries or catalytic converter thefts in our vicinity in the week ending 13<sup>th</sup> October

**04/10/2022 Between 07:50 to 15:47. St.Monicas Road, Kingswood.** Residential Burglary. Method of Entry- Access has been gained through the communal entrance of the building. Access has been gained through the door to the flat. Stolen: Jewellery and bags.

#### **Police warnings**

The clocks will be changing at the end of October meaning it will be a lot darker earlier in the evening. Don't fall victim to burglary. Ensure your home is locked securely when you leave the house and don't leave any keys in the doors. Burglars typically do not want to be seen or heard and if they feel that they would be noticed by a neighbour or passer-by then they are more likely to feel exposed and may move on to find somewhere else to burgle.

Leaving a light on can give the impression that your home is occupied and therefore less of a target for would-be burglars. If you are going to be returning home after dark consider light timers to come on during the late afternoon. Also, consider movement sensitive external lights as they may deter burglars.

Criminals are often targeting outbuildings and sheds as these can contain high value tools that they can resell online. The penalties for breaking into such buildings are typically less as the courts take into account the pain distress caused by burglaries to domestic dwellings.

### **Police Fraud Newsletter (Long Read)**

*"Each month we see many incidents of fraudsters targeting our residents in an attempt to defraud them. We're working hard to prevent this and support vulnerable victims of fraud or scams. By following our tips and encouraging family, friends and colleagues to do so too, you can reduce the risk of becoming a victim."*

**T/Detective Chief Inspector Simon Doyle, Surrey Police & Sussex Police Economic Crime Unit**

### **Loan Fraud**

With the cost of living rising the need for loans and financial support also increases as many struggle to pay household bills without extra help. Sussex and Surrey Police have seen several reports of loan fraud whereby fraudsters have exploited many victims looking for loans.

In one case, a 28-year-old from West Sussex was looking for a loan online. The victim visited a number of loan websites wanting to borrow £6500. The victim was later called by a supposed loan firm offering to loan him the full amount, but in return he would be required to pay an upfront fee of £125 which would be refunded back to him.

In need of funds, the victim transferred £125 to the firm as requested. The fraudster then cut all contact leaving the victim at a loss.

### **How to protect yourself:**

- When applying for a loan, you should only deal with FCA authorised firms. You can check the [Financial Services Register](#) to see if a firm is regulated by the FCA
- Check the firm's contact details match the details on the Financial Services Register
- Do not be put under pressure, fraudsters may tell you to act quickly
- Be wary of anyone contacting you out of the blue offering you a loan or financial advice

### **How to use social media safely**

Social media has become widely used by us all and social media platforms are ever growing. Whether it is to promote your business, catch up with friends and family, keep up to date on the news and new trends or to meet new people, social media has multiple uses and has become part of everyone's digital footprint.

However, it is important to know how to use social media safely and how to protect yourself from potential fraud risks and opportunities which social media carries such as hacking, impersonation and phishing.

### **How to keep safe:**

Think about what you put online – do you need to share this? Who do you want to share this with? Could someone take this information and use it fraudulently?

Keeping personal information offline will or restricted to people you know well will reduce the chances of it being used to impersonate you or even guess your password

Use 2 Factor Authentication for online platforms to protect yourself from hackers and fraudsters who may want to steal your details

Do not click on links in posts, tweets, or messages unless you are 100% certain that they are genuine

### **Recovering a hacked social media account:**

1. Contact your account provider

2. Check your email account
3. Change your passwords (Remember the 3 random words tip)
4. Log all devices and apps out of your account
5. Set up 2 Step Verification
6. Update your devices
7. Notify your contacts
8. Check your bank statements and shopping accounts
9. Report to Action Fraud

### **Gift Cards**

Sussex and Surrey Police are seeing an increase in large amounts of suspicious payments being made using gift cards and vouchers.

Fraudsters will contact their victims, using a range of different fake stories and tactics, urging the victim to make a payment by purchasing vouchers and gift cards from their nearest retailer. Once the cards have been purchased, the scammer accesses the money by asking the victim to share the code on the back of the voucher.

In one case, a 75-year-old Male from West Surrey received an email from a male claiming to be from an investment company. The male offered the victim an investment deal and claimed the victim could receive a return of millions if he sent the firm some amazon vouchers.

The victim was told to act quickly, or he could miss out on the investment deal they were offering. The victim purchased £150 of amazon vouchers and sent the codes on the back of the gift cards to the male. After receiving the codes, the male stopped contacting the victim and the victim never received money in return.

### **How to protect yourself:**

- Be wary of anyone contacting you out of the blue asking you to purchase gift cards in return for a fee, service, as part of an investigation or in an urgent situation
- Do not reveal the code on the back of a gift card to someone you don't know
- If you have paid a fraudster by gift card, contact the retailer straight away
- Genuine banks or other trusted organisations won't pressure you to make a financial transaction on the spot. If something feels wrong then its usually right to question it

### **Suspect you or someone you know has been victim to a scam?**

Report it to Action fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.

However, where the victim is vulnerable or elderly, please contact Sussex or Surrey Police directly on 101.

If it is an emergency, always call 999.

### **Upcoming Events**

**From Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – January 7<sup>th</sup> Tadworth Tree Wardens have helped to create an Exhibition and Workshops “The Remarkable World of Trees “ at Epsom Library.**

**Saturday Oct 15 Coffee Shop, from 10.30am–12noon in the Good Shepherd Church.**

**Saturday Oct 22nd Coffee Morning in support of Ukrainian families living locally, from 10 am–12noon in the Good Shepherd Church.** Raffle and Christmas Gift for sale.

**The Curzon Cinema** has restarted and will have a screening in the Riddell Hall on **October 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Saturday Oct 29th Coffee Shop, from 10.30am–12noon in the Good Shepherd Church** and each Saturday thereafter.

**Walton Volunteer Clean Up Saturday Oct 29<sup>th</sup> 1pm meet up at Mere Pond.**

**Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> First Aid and Defibrillator Training in Breech Lane Community Hall from 7.30pm.**

**Sunday Nov 6th Good Shepherd Parish Lunch** – note you must pre-book on the list in the Church.

**Saturday Nov 12th The Village Kitchen** light lunch events will continue until December on the second Saturday of each month.

**Nov 18<sup>th</sup> from 7pm** The Friends of St Peter's **Wine Tasting Event at The Riddell Hall** contact Philip Truett on 01737 813832 or [philip@truett.co.uk](mailto:philip@truett.co.uk)

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Live Music Night** Tadfest at Tadworth Primary School. Tickets £30 including food enquiries to [hello@tadfest.org](mailto:hello@tadfest.org)

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December The Gage Players** present a rehearsed reading of **"A Christmas Carol"** by Charles Dickens. Bring your own supper or buy snacks and drinks from 7pm. Reading starts at 8pm. Seats are £10 per head at tables – bookings 01737 812703.

Note **Tadworth Parish Christmas Lunch** will be on 11<sup>th</sup> December rather than the 4<sup>th</sup>.

**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

01737 350452