

E-Newsletter – 25th November 2022

www.bera.co.uk



© Andrew Armstrong Photography

1) Information Corner



BERA Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 15th December** at **10.00am to midday** at **Thorpe Bay Methodist Church** (corner of The Broadway and Johnstone Road). We will be bringing along panic and personal alarms, contactless debit card blocking pouches, no cold caller stickers and the car key signal blocking pouches, which are free to members.

All welcome to come for a chat, tea and cake and bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you.

Christmas Lights

We hope you are enjoying the Christmas lights along The Broadway, which are fully sponsored by BERA and were switched on last Saturday. If you have not seen them, please pop along and have a look and support your local shops whilst you are there.

Thorpe Bay Methodist Church – Memory Worship

Thorpe Bay Methodist Church in The Broadway offer a Memory Service for all those with or without dementia, 1st Monday of every month with the next one being on the 5th December. Carers welcome. Starts at 2.00pm until 3.30pm, followed by tea and cakes. For more information, please phone the Church office on 01702 589263 (mornings only).

Record-breaking year for Southend Pier

It's been a bumper year for Southend Pier, with the ever-popular attraction having recorded its highest number of yearly visitors, with two months of the year still to go

392,025 people visited the pier to the end of October – an increase of nearly 25,000 on the previous highest, which was 364,142 visitors in the entire 2018.

So far it has been the busiest October since records began, with over 27,000 people walking the planks and riding the trains – over 2,000 more than the previous highest in 2018.

The pier hasn't stood still amongst all of the buzz of visitors and has recently undergone a number of improvements. The Royal Pavilion, the end of the Pier restaurant 1.33 miles out to sea, is soon to reopen, along with our new, eco-friendly, electric pier trains. Even after the teething problems we had, when the old diesel trains worked alongside them, they have transported residents and visitors on the spectacular journey for the panoramic views of the Thames Estuary.

Halloween on the Pier attracted hundreds of additional visitors throughout October weekends and there are more exciting events planned, like Santa on the Pier which is selling out fast.

The pier is now on winter opening hours. Our winter walk price is only £1 per person to walk both ways and with our loyalty card offer – six visits for the price of five - there's even more reason to visit the pier.

2) National Corner

Council tax rises

Most English councils are expected to raise council tax by 5 per cent, according to Treasury estimates published alongside the Autumn Statement. The LGA said that, while the financial outlook for councils looked better than feared before the Chancellor's announcements, council tax income alone cannot plug funding shortfalls.

Business rates revaluation

Retailers with bricks-and-mortar stores will pay significantly lower business rates, while operators of large warehouse and logistics facilities will see their bills increase, following a revaluation of commercial properties announced alongside the Autumn Statement. Shops will also benefit more quickly from any rate reductions after the Chancellor scrapped downwards transitional relief in England. This has seen lower bills phased in over three years and is a change expected to cost the Government £1.6 billion.

Civil servants to strike

Civil servants at the Home Office, Border Force, Department for Transport and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will take part in industrial action in December, the PCS Union has announced.

Delayed discharges crisis

Since the end of the pandemic, the NHS's ability to discharge such patients has "collapsed", an in-depth feature concludes. Latest figures show that patients in 21,770 NHS beds "no longer meet the criteria to reside". But of those, only 8,196 have been able to leave hospital. The feature explores the pressures facing social care, including a 55 per cent increase in unfilled vacancies.

Libraries at risk of cuts despite 'unprecedented' rise in users

Community libraries are seeing an "unprecedented" rise in the number of people using their services, but soaring costs could force some to make "drastic cuts" and even shut next year, according to a charity. Libraries Connected says many of its members have expanded their services to help people struggling with higher prices, but that some libraries are now considering cutting staff, services and the number of books they stock, with some even contemplating closure.

Energy price cap rises to £4,279

The amount energy companies can charge for electricity and gas will rise from January, but households will be protected from the increase. Energy regulator Ofgem increased its cap for the first three months of next year to 67 pence per kilowatt hour (p/kWh) for electricity and 17 pence p/kWh for gas, which would usually see the typical household bill rise to £4,279 a year, but the Government's energy price guarantee means households will be protected from the increase.

Britons told how to save energy

Ministers are reportedly preparing a £25 million public information campaign to encourage people to reduce their energy bills by turning down boilers, switching off radiators in empty rooms and taking showers instead of baths. Chancellor Jeremy Hunt said yesterday that all households had a responsibility to cut energy use by as much as 15 per cent to stop Britain from being "blackmailed" by President Putin.

Sharp rise in claims for benefits since Covid pandemic

Twice as many people are claiming unemployment-related benefits in some parts of Britain as were doing before the Covid-19 pandemic began. In total across the UK, the unadjusted claimant count last month was 1.54 million, which was 3,300 more than the previous month and 304,500 more than in March 2020.

UK restaurants going bankrupt at faster rate than during Covid

UK restaurants are going bust at a faster rate than during the Covid crisis owing to a "toxic mix" of surging energy costs, staff shortages and falling bookings. Closures in the sector rose by 60 per cent, with 1,567 insolvencies during 2021/22, up from 984 during 2020/21, according to a study by the advisory firm Mazars.

PM urged not to delay venue security bill

Senior police officers have written to the Prime Minister about the delay in introducing a security law, known as Protect Duty or Martyn's Law, in the wake of the Manchester Arena bombing. The letter, also signed by relatives of terrorism victims, said a delay in introducing a law to improve security at public venues is "dangerous", with the bill yet to be tabled.

“Outstanding” schools downgraded

Most of the outstanding schools in England inspected last year have been downgraded, according to a report from Ofsted, with some not having been looked at for 15 years. Ofsted said that many would have experienced "significant change" such as new head teachers in that time. The National Education Union said Ofsted's findings were "frequently unreliable".

Schools using non-specialist teachers amid recruitment struggle

A report by the National Foundation for Educational Research has found schools struggling with teacher recruitment issues are having to use non-specialists for maths, physics and language lessons. It said the use of non-specialist teachers in schools struggling with recruitment could have a negative impact on learning for pupils.

Children unhappier at secondary school

New research suggests that children's wellbeing plummets between the ages of 11 and 14 and secondary school makes them unhappy. Academics studied the happiness of more than 11,000 children from across the UK, asking them how they felt about their friends, school and family and their satisfaction with these areas dropped significantly between when they left primary school.

Trial of fruit and veg prescriptions

Fresh fruit and vegetables are being given out on prescription to low-income families in a trial public health scheme, with around 120 people with chronic disease and mental health conditions receiving weekly vouchers to spend on fresh groceries. The vouchers, worth up to £8 a week with an additional £2 for each child in the household, are being given to participants identified by NHS-funded social prescribing staff.

Patients prescribed heating under health trial

Doctors are prescribing heating to patients with conditions that get worse in the cold, as part of a Warm Home Prescription pilot. The trial, backed by NHS Gloucestershire, paid to heat the homes of 28 low-income patients to avoid the cost of hospital care if they became more ill. It achieved such good results it is being expanded to 1,150 homes.

Train strikes

New train strikes have been announced over December and January, and will be held across four 48-hour periods on 13 to 14 and 16 to 17 December and 3 to 4 and 6 to 7 January. RMT members at Network Rail and 14 train companies voted last week in favour of further industrial action.

Better Leisure reduces opening hours

The leisure centre chain Better Leisure has said the rising cost of living is forcing it to reduce its opening hours and said its energy costs had more than tripled since 2019. The charitable social enterprise which runs 268 centres across the UK said it was not sustainable after the "recent struggles" of the pandemic.

3) Crime Report 14th to 20th November 2022

Ward **Southchurch**
 Crime Reference Number 42/280369/22
 Offence Description Theft from a motor vehicle
 Reported Date and Time 14/11/2022 19:21
 Committed Date (From) 14/11/2022 18:50
 Street partial postcode **SOUTHCHURCH ROAD SS1 2**
 Offence Details (MO)
 SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE REMOVED THE KEYS FROM THE IGNITION OF MOPED WHILST VICTIM WAS DELIVERING FOOD FOR DELIVEROO.

Ward **Southchurch**
 Crime Reference Number 42/280678/22
 Offence Description Theft from a motor vehicle
 Reported Date and Time 15/11/2022 19:32
 Committed Date (From) 14/11/2022
 Street partial postcode **PHILPOTT AVENUE SS2 4**
 Offence Details (MO)
 SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS TAKEN A DRIVING LICENCE, TACO CARD, MOT CERTIFICATE, LOGBOOK, MOTOR INSURANCE POLICY AND 8GBP FROM A SILVER FORD TRANSIT CUSTOM.

Ward **Southchurch**
 Crime Reference Number 42/282491/22
 Offence Description Burglary - Residential - Dwelling
 Reported Date and Time 18/11/2022 09:11
 Committed Date (From) 18/11/2022 02:00
 Street partial postcode **SURBITON AVENUE SS1 2**
 Offence Details (MO)
 SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS ENTERED THE VICTIMS PROPERTY BY MEANS UNKNOWN AND SEARCHED THE PROPERTY. UNKNOWN IF ANYTHING HAS BEEN TAKEN.

Ward **Southchurch**
 Crime Reference Number 42/282793/22
 Offence Description Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Pedal Cycle
 Reported Date and Time 18/11/2022 19:01
 Committed Date (From) 18/11/2022 14:16
 Street partial postcode **HAMSTEL ROAD SS2 4**
 Offence Details (MO)
 SUSPECTS UNIDENTIFIED HAVE STOLEN THE VICTIMS BICYCLE.

Ward **Thorpe**
 Crime Reference Number 42/279568/22
 Offence Description Theft if not classified elsewhere
 Reported Date and Time 14/11/2022 10:24
 Committed Date (From) 12/11/2022 00:01
 Street partial postcode **GREENWAYS SS1 3**

Offence Details (MO)

SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS BY MEANS UNKNOWN STOLEN THE VICTIMS SANTANDER BANK CARD AND 380 GBP IN CASH.

Ward	West Shoebury
Crime Reference Number	42/281669/22
Offence Description	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)
Reported Date and Time	10/10/2022 16:40
Committed Date (From)	10/10/2022 15:30
Street partial postcode	CAULFIELD ROAD SS3 9

Offence Details (MO)

SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS RAMMED THE VICTIMS VEHICLE REPEATEDLY WITH HIS VEHICLE, CAUSING DAMAGE TO THE REAR OF THE VICTIMS VEHICLE, A WHITE FIAT DOBLO VAN.

4) List of Applications Registered Week Ending 25th November 2022

Application Number: 22/02239/FULH **Ward: Thorpe**
Officer: James Benn
Erect single storey rear/side extension and replace pitched roof over existing extension to rear
26 St Augustines Avenue Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 22/02241/FULH **Ward: Thorpe**
Officer: Hayley Thompson
Convert garage into habitable accommodation and alter front elevation
403 Woodgrange Drive Southend-on-Sea Essex

5) List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 20th November 2022

APPLN. NO: 22/01390/FULH **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: James Benn
INSTALL 0.6M TRELLIS TO TOP OF EXISTING 1.8M BOUNDARY FENCING TO SIDES OF REAR GARDEN (RETROSPECTIVE)
67 LIFSTAN WAY SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX
Decision: Grant Permission

APPLN. NO: 22/01687/AMDT **Ward. Thorpe**
Officer: Oliver Hart
APPLICATION TO VARY CONDITIONS 02 (APPROVED PLANS) REPLACE PLAN NUMBERS P1000C, P1001C, P1002C AND P1003C WITH J346-01 AND J346-02A - AMENDMENTS TO INTERNAL LAYOUT, OVERALL BUILDING WIDTH AND EXTEND SINGLE STOREY PORCH ELEMENT TO TWO STOREY AND ALTER

ROOF FORM/PROFILE (MINOR MATERIAL AMENDMENT OF PLANNING PERMISSION 21/01423/FUL DATED 22/12/2021 AND 22/00066/AMDT DATED 15.02.2022

LAND REAR OF 66-72 VICTORIA ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 22/01722/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: James Benn

ERECT PART FIRST FLOOR/PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION, ALTER ELEVATIONS

3 BUTTERYS THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 22/01839/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: James Benn

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION

173 KENSINGTON ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

The information we provide is intended to be for the exclusive use of our members to whom it is addressed and is confidential and must not be passed onto any third party. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution or other use of the contents of this information is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by contacting BERA.

- END -