

E-Newsletter – 24th February 2023

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1) Information Corner



BERA Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be on **Thursday 16th March 2023 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.

Renewal Time

Thank you to the members who have already renewed as without your support, we would not be able to continue to do the work we do to keep the Estate to great place it is to live and work in. **Please complete and return the renewal form, even if you pay by bank transfer (and quote your address in the reference section so we know who has paid)**, in order for us to have your up-to-date contact details. There are three ways for you to pay this year.

- 1) Online bank transfer from your bank account (please see our website for our new bank details)
- 2) £10 cash
- 3) £10 cheque (made payable to Burges Estate Residents Association)

BERA – The Residents’ Association - www.bera.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM for new and existing members

January - December 2023

Please pay £10 (indicate method of payment below):

- Cash
- Cheque payable to: “*Burges Estate Residents Association*”
- Bank transfer. (See payment page of www.bera.co.uk and quote your address in the reference section so we know who has paid)

(Please also complete and return this form even if you have paid by bank transfer)

Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, Dr, Rev):

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

..... Post Code:.....

Telephone:

E-mail:

Please return the completed form, with payment or bank transfer box ticked, to:

**Ron Woodley, Chair BERA
91 Tyrone Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 3HD**

Preventing car and vehicle theft

Don't let thieves get an easy ride. Follow these simple rules to protect your vehicle from thieves.

1. Lock your vehicle

Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have locked your vehicle, check you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open.

It is actually illegal to leave your vehicle running unattended while you de-ice it or warm it up in cold weather. If someone takes it while it's left like this, your insurer won't pay out because you won't be covered.

If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked, make sure you lock it properly. Criminal gangs are looking for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked.

2. Keep the keys safe

Vehicles today are by and large more difficult to steal than ever, unless the thief can access your key or fob to clone them. Keep your keys safe, out of view when at home, and away from your front door. It's not uncommon for car keys to be stolen from inside your home by thieves fishing for them with a stick and hook through the letterbox.

Keyless entry

Cars with keyless entry unlock automatically when the key comes within a short distance of the car. This can be from inside a pocket or bag. If you have to push a button on your car key to open your car, you don't have keyless entry.

Keyless car theft or 'relay theft' is when a device is used to fool the car into thinking the key is close by. This unlocks the car and starts the ignition.

Thieves only need to be within a few metres of your car key to capture the signal, even if it's inside your home. This means that even if your car and home are secure, thieves can still unlock, start and steal your car.

How to protect your keyless entry car

When at home keep your car key (and the spare) well away from the car.

Put the keys in a screened or signal-blocking pouch, such as a Faraday Bag.

Reprogramme your keys if you buy a second hand car.

Turn off wireless signals on your fob when it's not being used.

3. Be aware of carjackers

The fact that you're in the car isn't always a deterrent to someone trying to steal it.

In traffic, drive with the doors locked and when queuing leave enough space in front of your vehicle to enable you to get out of a tight spot. If your vehicle is bumped from behind, wait to pull over – somewhere safe and preferably where there are people. After all, you don't know the person who has collided with you; they could well be hijackers. If you're at all suspicious, consider calling the police.

If someone threatens you, it's better to hand over the keys to the vehicle than become a victim of assault. Then call 999 as soon as possible, and ask for the police.

If your car is stolen, some modern vehicle alarm and tracker systems have the facility to isolate or shut down fuel systems, bringing the vehicle to a halt and leaving the thief high and dry.

4. Park responsibly

It's always advisable to avoid parking in dark and secluded areas. It's worth an extra five or ten-minute walk if it means your vehicle is left in a well-lit and busier street.

And if possible, always try to park in illuminated and staffed car parks or those with a Park Mark safer parking award.

5. Watch for illegal tow trucks

Thieves often attempt to lift vehicles from the street, literally. So, if you see a towaway crew acting suspiciously – especially if their vehicle isn't branded or if they're not in uniform – then please report it immediately.

As with every report of suspicious behaviour made in good faith, we'll never blame anyone for calling us if it proves unfounded.

Car parks with height-restricted entrances help prevent illegal tow trucks and removal vehicles. And fitting a Thatcham rated category 1 or 2 alarm system with tracking, immobilisation, anti-grab and movement sensors can help protect and trace your vehicle.

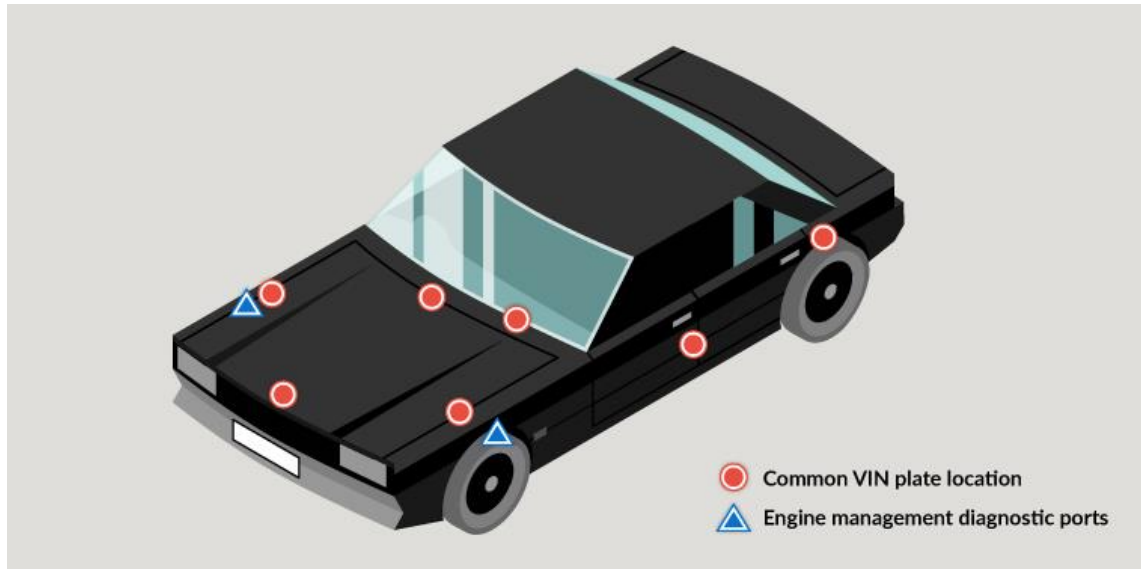
6. Fit good in-car security locks

Bear in mind that built-in steering locks aren't necessarily thief-proof. Many can be forced and broken. Fitting a Sold Secure steering wheel, gear lever or clutch pedal security device can give your vehicle added protection.

7. Double-check electronic locking

Electronic devices can be used to jam the electronic signal from your key fob to lock your vehicle. Always manually check your vehicle has locked before walking away.

If unsure, lock it manually, then scan the immediate area for anyone hanging around. If a potential thief who's watching feels they've been spotted, they'll probably move off.



8. Before owning, check for cloning

Changing the identity of a vehicle, known as vehicle cloning, can be as simple as adding stolen number plates. When buying a vehicle, always check the DVLA V5 document and make sure the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the vehicle is the same as on the document.

Make sure you check more than one of the VINs as well as the engine numbers on the vehicle (see diagram).

9. Secure your port

Many modern vehicles are fitted with engine management diagnostic ports, which can unlock and start your vehicle.

If your vehicle has this type of port, consider fitting a lockable cover.

2) National Corner

Energy bills set to rise by 20% despite expected fall in price cap

Bills will rise by an estimated £500 a year despite an expected reduction in Ofgem's household energy cap, analysts expect. Cornwall Insights has forecast the energy regulator will cap the amount households pay on electricity and gas bills each year at £3,294 from 1 April, a drop from the previous cap of £4,279, but customers will pay about 20 per cent more on their bills as the Government's energy price guarantee only partially protects consumers from paying the full price cap.

Junior doctors vote for strikes in England

Junior doctors in England have voted in favour of taking strike action over pay. Members of the British Medical Association are now expected to take part in a 72-hour walkout, possibly as early as mid-March, after the union said junior doctor roles had seen pay cut by 26 per cent since 2008 once inflation was taken into account.

Most firms to keep four-day working week after successful trial

The world's biggest trial of a four-day working week has been hailed a success, with most of the companies involved saying they would continue offering a shorter week. A total of 61 companies across several sectors in the UK were involved in the pilot, which ran for six months from June last year.

Sports bodies issue plea

A group of almost 200 organisations – including the LGA - have signed a letter to the Prime Minister warning of the "final straw" for many gyms, pools and clubs because of the "ongoing energy crisis". The letter makes an "urgent plea" for the Government to "think again" about not including them in future help with energy bills and provide the necessary support to the sport, recreation and physical activity sector.

Bus funding

Following calls by the LGA to protect bus routes, the Government has said £80 million will be made available to support critical routes from April with the £2 cap on bus fares in England also extended for three months.

Supermarkets limit vegetable sales

Supermarkets are putting limits on purchases of certain fruit and vegetables as they face shortages of fresh produce. The shortages a result of extreme weather in Spain and north Africa, where floods, snow and hail, have affected harvests.

Snow flurries and frost forecast

A wintry cold snap is set to bring temperatures plummeting down at the end of this month. Weather maps depict a flurry of snow across the country and lows of -2C that will come as soon as this morning for some parts of the UK.

Council staff offered 20 per cent pay increase for lowest earners over next two years

The lowest paid council staff have been offered a 20 per cent pay offer over the next two years, the LGA have announced. Council staff have been offered an increase of at least £1,925 for the year from April 2023, following a similar settlement for 2022-23. If agreed, that would mean an increase of 9.42 per cent this year and 22 per cent over the two years since April 2021 for the lowest paid.

83 per cent increase in children having rotting teeth removed in 2022 Figures released today show more than 25,000 children had decaying teeth removed in hospital last year, an increase of 83 per cent from last year. Children living in the most deprived communities are around 3.5 times more likely to have teeth out due to decay than those in the most affluent areas. Tooth decay is the most common reason for hospital admission in children aged six to 10.

Pasta price doubles to 95p as cost of basic food rises

The price of pasta has nearly doubled in two years, analysis by the BBC has suggested. Analysis of food prices from major supermarkets shows that the cost of a small basket of 15 everyday essentials has gone up by £5.34 - from £15.79 in 2021 to £21.13 in 2023.

Debt puts off students from entering profession

Debt among dental students has more than doubled in the past ten years to £50,000 and is deterring poorer school-leavers from choosing the profession, research by the British Dental Journal has found. Researchers warned that this risked escalating severe workforce problems.

3) Crime Report 13th to 19th February 2023

Ward **Southchurch**
 Crime Reference Number 42/27143/23
 Offence Description Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)
 Reported Date and Time 14/02/2023 10:40
 Committed Date (From) 14/02/2023 00:30
 Street partial postcode **NEWINGTON GARDENS SS2 4**
 Offence Details (MO)
 SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE SMASHED THE REAR PASSENGER WINDOW OF VICTIMS WHITE NISSAN QASHQAI BY THROWING A BRICK.

Ward **Southchurch**
 Crime Reference Number 42/27671/23
 Offence Description Theft if not classified elsewhere
 Reported Date and Time 07/02/2023 17:55
 Committed Date (From) 06/11/2022 00:01
 Street partial postcode **PLYMTREE SS1 3**
 Offence Details (MO)
 SUSPECT UNKNOWN ADVERTISED A GOOGLE PIXEL 6 MOBILE PHONE ON FACEBOOK MARKETPLACE FOR GBP170 WHICH WAS PURCHASED BY VICTIM, WHO LATER DISCOVERED MOBILE PHONE WAS STOLEN. VICTIM IS FINANCIALLY OUT OF POCKET FOR GBP 170.

Ward **Southchurch**
 Crime Reference Number 42/28197/23
 Offence Description Theft if not classified elsewhere
 Reported Date and Time 08/02/2023 14:24
 Committed Date (From) 08/02/2023 00:20
 Street partial postcode **SOUTHCHURCH ROAD SS1 2**
 Offence Details (MO)
 SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE STOLEN THE VICTIMS BANK CARD AND HAS USED IT.

Ward **Southchurch**
 Crime Reference Number 42/28334/23
 Offence Description Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000)
 Reported Date and Time 12/02/2023 23:07
 Committed Date (From) 12/02/2023 23:00
 Street partial postcode **HAMSTEL ROAD SS2 4**
 Offence Details (MO)

SUSPECT NAMED HAS CAUSED A DISTURBANCE IN A TAKEAWAY, DURING WHICH SHE HAS SQUIRTED SAUCE AROUND THE PREMISES AND SMASHED A VASE.

Ward **Southchurch**
Crime Reference Number 42/30586/23
Offence Description Burglary - Residential - Dwelling
Reported Date and Time 19/02/2023 16:23
Committed Date (From) 18/02/2023 05:30
Street partial postcode **ARCHER AVENUE SS2 4**
Offence Details (MO)

SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS FORCED ENTRY TO THE VICTIMS HOME THROUGH THE BACK DOOR. UNKNOWN WHETHER ANYTHING WAS STOLEN AT THIS TIME.

Ward **West Shoebury**
Crime Reference Number 42/26687/23
Offence Description Distraction Burglary - Residential - Dwelling
Reported Date and Time 13/02/2023 13:09
Committed Date (From) 04/02/2023
Street partial postcode **BLYTH AVENUE SS3 9**
Offence Details (MO)

TWO SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE CALLED AT THE ADDRESS ASKING THE VICTIM ABOUT HER SONS CAR THAT IS PARKED ON THE DRIVEWAY. SHE WENT TO LOOK FOR THE CAR KEYS, THE MALES ENTERED THE HOUSE, ONE WENT UPSTAIRS INTO THE FRONT BEDROOM WHILE THE OTHER WENT INTO THE LIVING ROOM. IT HAS SINCE BEEN NOTED THAT AN I-PAD AND A KINDLE READER ARE MISSING FROM THE LIVING ROOM AND A TIN CONTAINING JEWELLERY HAS BEEN THROWN ON THE FLOOR IN THE FRONT BEDROOM, ALONG WITH SEVERAL CORRESPONDENCE PAPERS. SUSPECTS MADE OFF OUT THE FRONT DOOR.

Ward **West Shoebury**
Crime Reference Number 42/27122/23
Offence Description Theft from a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time 14/02/2023 09:26
Committed Date (From) 13/02/2023 20:00
Street partial postcode **DELAWARE CRESCENT SS3 9**
Offence Details (MO)

SUSPECTS UNKNOWN REMOVED THE FRONT AND REAR INDEX PLATES FROM THE VICTIMS VEHICLE, A BLUE NISSAN MICRA, WHILST THE VEHICLE WAS PARKED OUTSIDE THE VICTIMS HOME ADDRESS OVERNIGHT.

4) List of Applications Registered Week Ending 24th February 2023

Application Number: 23/00212/FULH
Officer: James Benn

Ward: **Southchurch**

Demolish existing garage, erect two storey side extension, part single/part two storey front extension and single storey rear extension

45 Daines Way Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 23/00247/FUL

Ward: Southchurch

Officer: Abbie Greenwood

Erect first floor extension to east elevation

Alleyn Court School Wakering Road Southend-on-sea

Application Number: 23/00160/FULH

Ward: Thorpe

Officer: Hayley Thompson

Erect single storey side extension to form residential annex for ancillary use to main dwelling

3 Chelsworth Close Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 23/00259/FULH

Ward: Thorpe

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

Erect porch to front and first floor front extension, convert existing garage into habitable accommodation

8 Marcus Avenue Thorpe Bay Essex

5) List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 19th February 2023

APPLN. NO: 22/01933/FULH

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Jennifer Doherty

INSTALL VEHICLE CROSSOVER ON TO HAMSTEL ROAD, ALTER HARDSTANDING AREA AND BOUNDARY WALL

89 HAMSTEL ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 22/02316/CLP

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Oliver Hart

TO ALTER AND EXTEND THE EXISTING CAR PARK IN LINE WITH HISTORICAL PERMISSION SOS/93/0365 (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE- PROPOSED)

GARONS PARK GOLF COMPLEX GARONS PARK SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

APPLN. NO: 22/02363/CLE

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Scott Davison

USE OUTBUILDING AS A RESIDENTIAL ANNEXE (CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT - EXISTING)

65 LIFSTAN WAY SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Existing)

APPLN. NO: 22/02449/CLP

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: James Benn

DORMERS TO SIDES TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE
LOFTSPACE (CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT - PROPOSED)
74 PARKANAUR AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX
Decision: Refuse Lawful Development Certificate

APPLN. NO: 22/02465/FULH

Ward. West Shoebury

Officer: Scott Davison

ERECT TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND SINGLE STOREY REAR
EXTENSION

9 SEDGEMOOR SHOEBURYNESS SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

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