

E-Newsletter – 7th July 2023

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1) Information Corner



Save the Date!!

Who: **BERA**

What: **Coffee Morning**

Where: **Thorpe Bay Methodist Church** (corner of The Broadway and Johnstone Road).

When: **Thursday 20th July 2023 at 10.00am to midday**

Please see the above date for our July coffee morning, which will be the last one until September.

Come and join us for engaging chats and laughter, accompanied by free tea, coffee, homemade cakes and biscuits. We will be bringing stretchy keychains to keep your purses safe as well as other personal safety devices.

Bring along a friend and we look forward to welcoming you once again.

Safe Crossing in The Broadway – Another BERA Success!!

We have been advised that Marlborough have received the materials and are applying for a permit to start the work for around the 17th July; however they are just waiting for confirmation of the permit approval.

Last Years Tree Planting

The Parks Team confirms that the BERA donated trees have been planted in the agreed locations.



A Message from the Southend Community Fund

Southend Community Fund was set up in 2002 to provide financial support to charities and voluntary groups in Southend-on-Sea. The Fund was created by local people to become the focus of charitable giving and to be a unique financial resource that local charities and groups can tap into year-on-year.

Local resident and Chairman, David Hurst, said: "My interest in supporting local charities began when I was community service Chairman of Southend Round Table, where I was responsible for distributing money raised by our annual fireworks event – The Big Beach Bang. That led me to the Southend Community Fund (SCF) grants panel, and in turn learning about how Essex Community Foundation worked - www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk/southend-community-fund.

Our aim is to raise awareness of money that lies dormant and can be put to good use... along with my ambition to grow SCF to a fund of £10m+ over the next 4 years! Our priority is to support and empower the diligent, hardworking small charities in Southend-on-Sea."

Charitable groups are invited to apply for grants and these are discussed and considered with a voluntary panel of local residents who make decisions with your interests at heart.

To find out more, you can contact us on 01245 355947 or email hello@essexcf.org.uk



c2c consultation on ticket office closures - consultation closes on Wednesday 26 July 2023 – Please complete the survey and have your say

c2c is proposing changes to the way it sells tickets and provides customer service at its stations.

This proposal forms part of plans to modernise the railway and bring it more in line with modern consumer expectations. It reflects significantly reduced usage of ticket offices over the past decade as customers move to alternative, more convenient ways of buying tickets.

We will continue to meet all our commitments on providing accessibility for passengers, including passengers with reduced mobility and people requiring in-person assistance.

For customers of Basildon, Benfleet, Chalkwell, East Tilbury, Laindon, Leigh-on-Sea, Pitsea, Shoeburyness, Southend Central, Southend East, Stanford-le-Hope, Thorpe Bay, Tilbury Town, West Horndon, Westcliff stations

For customers of Barking, Chafford Hundred, Dagenham Dock, Fenchurch Street, Grays, Limehouse, Ockendon, Purfleet, Rainham, Upminster stations

Fill out the Transport Focus survey at <https://www.transportfocus.org.uk/ticket-office-consultation/>

Physical copies of this information can also be obtained on request by phoning 0345 744 4422.

Lines are open:

0800 – 2000 Monday to Friday

0900 – 1600 on weekends and Bank Holidays.

Independent passenger watchdogs Transport Focus and London TravelWatch are facilitating the consultation, which **closes on Wednesday 26 July 2023**.

PLEASE COMPLETE THE SURVEY AND HAVE YOUR SAY!

Fixed penalty notices issued for breaches of BBQ and Car Cruise PSPOs

Southend-on-Sea City Council has successfully enforced its public spaces protection orders (PSPOs) this weekend after several breaches of the orders.

After another busy and fun-packed weekend in the City and along our award-winning beaches and seafront, pier and foreshore officers have unfortunately had to issue a fixed penalty notice (FPN) of £100 to a large group of people who flouted the BBQ ban PSPO, and community safety officers were forced to issue four £100 FPNs to drivers under the car cruise PSPO.

Leading up to the decision to issue the BBQ PSPO, there were some serious injuries sustained by children on Southend's beaches because people had not disposed of their barbeques safely and appropriately. Disposable barbeques are also extremely damaging to the environment.

The Car Cruise PSPO was brought in after many complaints were received from local businesses and residents regarding noise from vehicles, the smell of smoke in the air, loud music, parking breaches, littering and other examples of anti-social behaviour.

Beware of fake Microsoft 'spyware' pop-ups on your computer

Scammers are impersonating Microsoft in pop-ups warning your computer is infected with spyware.

These pop-ups appear suddenly on your screen. They claim that your device has a virus and that your personal and financial data is at risk, before asking you to call a phone number for support.

'Objects' found on the seabed delay removal of the masts of munitions ship SS Richard Montgomery sunk off the coast of Sheerness



Measures to lessen the threat posed by a sunken Second World War supply ship loaded with explosives have been postponed. The SS Richard Montgomery sank off the coast of Sheerness in August 1944 with 1400 tons of explosives aboard.

Even though the ship has been sitting in the water for more than 78 years, there is still considered to be a risk that the explosives could detonate, potentially causing a tidal wave that could wreak havoc on the town. Responsibility for the management of the wreck rests with the Department for Transport (DfT), which has been regularly monitoring the ship's condition. In recent years, signs of a deterioration in the ship's hull have been observed, which it is thought could increase the danger.

Two years ago it was decided that the ship's three masts – which project above the water line – would be removed, as it is thought that their weight is placing an additional strain on the deck-plating and so crucially on the cargo hold. A contract was awarded by the Government to safely remove the masts using jack-up rigs placed on the seabed, providing access to each mast via cranes.



The work was already delayed once after bombs were found lying on the seabed. They were removed last summer. But preparatory work which included a detailed survey of the wider area around the wreck has now identified another 18 "objects" on the seabed in locations which were required for the cranes.

The DfT has not revealed what the objects are. But in any case, the new information has meant the government department has had to re-assess the viability of using jack-up rigs. It has concluded it is not possible to proceed with this approach, because of the potential danger to those working on the project.

There is an exclusion zone around the immediate wreck site, marked by a ring of buoys, but increasingly yachts, jet-ski users and even paddle-boarders have been seen ignoring the exclusion zone and venturing dangerously close. They risk not only a large fine if caught, but also potentially losing their lives should the wreck chose that moment to blow up.

The SS Richard Montgomery is named after an American hero of their War of Independence against Britain. He died while attacking British Quebec in 1775.

2) National Corner

Energy bills fall as new price cap comes into force

A change to the energy price cap has come into force, bringing down domestic gas and electricity bills, with a further, smaller fall expected this winter. A household in England, Wales and Scotland using a typical amount of energy will now pay £2,074 a year, a decrease of £426 a year.

Struggling parish churches 'to be rented out instead of sold'

The Church of England could rent out parish churches instead of selling them under plans to deal with falling congregations. Under the proposals being considered by the General Synod, the Church's legislative body, buildings would be allowed to lie "fallow" with the option to reopen them in the future. This could mean renting them out at times and offering them to other institutions, such as local authorities, under a shared ownership deal.

Headteachers ready to join strikes in autumn

Heads of schools are likely to join teachers in striking in the new academic year, according to the National Association of Head Teachers. The move is likely to lead to far more school closures on strike days in England from September.

Pylons to be forced on public to hit net zero goal

Hundreds of miles of overhead cables and pylons are expected to be fast-tracked through the planning system despite local opposition, so Britain can hit its net zero targets. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero is reported to be devising sweeping planning reforms that industry leaders say are needed if the UK is to hit milestones such as eliminating fossil fuel generation by 2035.

Almost 13 million adults now struggling to pay bills, debt charity warns

New analysis by Debt Justice has found the number of UK households struggling with heavy debt has increased by two thirds since 2017. The charity found about 12.8 million adults in the UK are falling behind on bills or finding repayments a heavy burden.

More gambling clinics set up after record demand

NHS England is nearly doubling the number of clinics for gambling addiction after referrals reached a record high. Seven new clinics are to open this summer in addition to the eight already available around the country.

NHS strikes

The head of NHS England Amanda Prichard has warned that July's planned strikes in the health service could be the worst yet for patients. This month's consultant strike will bring a "different level of challenge" than previous strikes, she said.

Energy boss says prices might rise this winter

Energy prices could increase this winter forcing governments to step in and subsidise bills again. If the Chinese economy strengthens quickly and there is a harsh winter, gas prices could rise, putting pressure on consumers, the head of the International Energy Agency has said.

Train delays

Rail passengers are being warned of disruption due to an overtime ban by train drivers in the Aslef union. Many will reduce their service levels over the next few days and passengers are being advised to check before they travel.

Water firms discharged raw sewage 300,000 times last year, court hears

Water companies discharged raw sewage into rivers and seas via their storm overflows more than 300,000 times last year, according to new data presented to the High Court. The vast majority of the releases were illegal, the court heard, which came as Thames Water was fined £3.34 million in a separate hearing for sewage dumping.

Over-50s who retired at start of pandemic much poorer

A report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has found that people over 50 who left work during the pandemic are "much poorer" in general than other retirees. The IFS said 48 per cent of those who retired in 2020-21 were now living in relative poverty.

3) Crime Report 26th June to 2nd July 2023

Ward	Thorpe
Crime Reference Number	42/113864/23
Offence Description	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)
Reported Date and Time	26/06/2023 08:38
Committed Date (From)	10/06/2023 00:45
Street partial postcode	AMBLESIDE DRIVE SS1 2
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS DAMAGED THE VICTIMS PASSENGER SIDE WING MIRROR OF HER FORD, BY MEANS UNKNOWN

4) List of Applications Registered Week Ending 7th July 2023

Application Number: 23/00912/FUL
Officer: James Benn
Install metal external staircase to front garden area
201B Eastern Esplanade Southend-on-sea Essex

Ward: Thorpe

Application Number: 23/00947/FULH
Officer: Hayley Thompson

Ward: Thorpe

Erect single storey side extension (amended proposal)
3 Chelsworth Close Thorpe Bay Essex

Application Number: 23/00958/FULH
Officer: James Benn

Ward: Thorpe

Hip to gable roof extension with dormers to front and rear to form habitable accommodation in the loftspace, erect single storey side/rear extension and alter elevations

17 Elm Grove Thorpe Bay Essex

5) List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 2nd July 2023

APPLN. NO: 23/00809/CLP

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Oliver Hart

CONVERT GARAGE INTO HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION AND FORM WINDOW IN FRONT ELEVATION (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE - PROPOSED)

265 THORPE HALL AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

APPLN. NO: 23/00504/CLP

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Jennifer Doherty

SINGLE STOREY OUTBUILDING TO REAR OF GARDEN (CERTIFICATE OF LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT - PROPOSED)

10 VICTORIA ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

APPLN. NO: 23/00725/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

ERECT FIRST FLOOR EXTENSION WITH JULIET BALCONY TO REAR, ALTER ROOF TO FORM PITCHED ROOF TO FRONT, REPLACE PORCH TO FRONT AND ALTERATIONS TO FRONT AND REAR ELEVATIONS, INSTALL SOLAR PANELS TO REAR, ERECT SINGLE STOREY OUTBUILDING IN REAR GARDEN AND ERECT REPLACEMENT BOUNDARY WALL FACING WYATTS DRIVE

518 WOODGRANGE DRIVE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: Refuse Permission

APPLN. NO: 23/01054/ROT

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

INSTALL 12M MEDIUM WOODEN POLE OUTSIDE 17 DUNGANNON CHASE FOOTPATH OUTSIDE 17 DUNGANNON CHASE THORPE BAY

Decision: Telcom notice - Do not register

APPLN. NO: 23/00741/FULH

Ward. West Shoebury

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION

33 THORPEDENE GARDENS SHOEBURYNESSE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

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