

E-Newsletter – 13th October 2023

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© Andrew Armstrong Photography

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 19th October 2023 at 10.00am to midday**

Please join us for engaging chats and laughter, accompanied by free tea, coffee, homemade cakes and biscuits. We will be bringing stretchy keychains and other devices to keep you safe.

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

Beware - Door Knockers

We have been informed that there are door knockers selling in the area. Please do not purchase from them as this will encourage more of them and give them opportunities to see what valuables are in your home.



Plaque to commemorate Southend-on-Sea's tram network

A plaque that has been funded by BERA, has been fixed to the tram pole at the junction of Burges Road and Thorpe Hall Avenue on the golf course side, which celebrates that the pole was part of the overhead electric wiring for Southend-on-Sea's tram network. Please see the details of the plaque below:

HISTORY

CITY OF SOUTHEND ON SEA

This Pole was part of the overhead electric wiring for Southend-on-Sea's tram network.

19 July, 1901



As the town of Southend-On-Sea expanded, there was a need for public transport, and so a 3 ft 6 inch (1,067 mm) gauge electric tramway, using overhead wires to supply the power, was constructed and opened for business on 19 July, 1901. Lines ran from Victoria Circus, at the top of the High Street, to Leigh-on-Sea, to Southchurch, down to Thorpe Bay sea front.

The northern part of the eastern loop, from Southchurch to Thorpe Bay, was closed on 6 July, 1938.

Compliments of BERA

Slipper swap project aims to reduce trips and falls

Older residents living in Southend are being invited to exchange their worn-out slippers to help prevent trips and falls.

Through the slipper swap project, older and frail residents can swap their old slippers for a free brand-new pair which have design features to help prevent falls, such as secure fastenings and robust soles. Where necessary, residents will also be linked to other sources of support which could be beneficial.

Many older people are keen to stay independent at home, however walking indoors in worn-out slippers, barefoot or in socks can increase the risk of falls, slips and trips. This may result in spending time in hospital or receiving treatment at home which can make them feel less independent and more socially isolated.

Slipper Swap events will take place throughout November 2023 at the following venues:

Kent Elms library, Tuesday 7 November

Havens Hub, Hamlet Court Road, Friday 10 November
Leigh-on-Sea library, Tuesday 14 November
Shoeburyness library, Tuesday 21 November
The Forum, Tuesday 28 November

No booking is required to attend these events, just turn up between 10am and 12pm and staff will be available to help you and introduce you to the Slipper Swap services and additional information if required.

The Slipper Swap project is being delivered in partnership with Southend-on-Sea City Council's community engagement team and local groups and organisations.

If you, or someone you know, could benefit from a new pair of slippers to prevent falls, slips and trips, please contact the Southend Communities Team by emailing: communitiesteam@southend.gov.uk.

Defibrillators – and where to find them

Residents are being encouraged to use an interactive map which shows the exact location of all defibrillators in Southend-on-Sea.

Defibrillators are life-saving pieces of kit which help deliver an electric shock to the heart to get it back into normal rhythm when it stops beating or beats irregularly.

It means during a medical incident when a defibrillator is needed urgently, residents can check on the website and save precious time by locating the nearest defibrillator quickly.

You can find the nearest defibrillator to you by using this weblink address: Defib finder – find the defibrillators nearest you.

If you know the location of a defibrillator, it can be registered at: The Circuit - the national defibrillator network

Partners come together for Hate Crime Awareness Week

Southend-on-Sea City Council and partners are working together to highlight the importance of Hate Crime Awareness Week.

The Community Safety Partnership which comprises the council, police, fire, and Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS) are working together to mark Hate Crime Awareness Week (14-21 October) with a powerful campaign aimed at raising awareness, providing support, and reinforcing the message that there is 'no place for hate' in Southend-on-Sea.

A hate crime is any crime perceived by the victim or any other person to be motivated by hostility or prejudice. It is a sad reflection of ignorance when individuals resort to verbal or physical abuse against those who are different.

Throughout the week, the Community Safety Partnership will host a series of events including Police activities at synagogues and mosques, the Fire Service will be doing hate crime assemblies at specific schools, and SAVs will be doing some educational

work with restorative justice. There will also be two pop-up events at the following locations:

Tuesday 17 October at Tesco (Prince Avenue) from 11am to 1pm
Thursday 19 October at Asda (Shoeburyness) from 3pm to 5pm

If you have been a victim or a witness of a hate crime, seek support and information from a trained Hate Crime Ambassador at one of the Hate Incident Reporting Centres (HIRCs). These community venues offer confidential advice and support, and provide various reporting options:

Speak directly to the police in person at a police station or call 999 for emergencies or 101 for non-urgent enquiries.

Report online via True Vision at: www.report-it.org.uk.
Report anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.
Reach out to Stop Hate UK on 0800 138 1625 (free 24-hour helpline) or 0808 801 0576 (for under 18s).

For more information on hate crime, what it is, and how you can report it, visit: Hate Crime – Southend-on-Sea City Council.

Big Green Creative Open Day - Saturday 21st October 2023 - 11am to 3pm

This special Creative Open Day will see us celebrating all things eco and green! A day of free creative activities and workshops at Focal Point Gallery that offer tips, tricks, and tools to connect you with nature and see our City and coast in a different light.

Between 11am and 3pm, local photographic artist Anna Lukala is leading a camera-less photography workshop, and local permaculture practitioner and artist Graham Burnett is offering a workshop on drawing with charcoal. Trustlinks ECO Days are running two workshops – one on seed bomb making using native species, and one on decorating vases with surplus FPG art materials: shells! There will also be a special pop-up Repair Café from Southmenders, where you'll find tools, materials and expert volunteers with repair skills in all kinds of fields who will help you make any repairs you need.

Between 11am and 1pm Essex Wildlife Trust will be showcasing some of their coastal work, particular to protect and restore local seagrass meadows, which are vital in our combat against climate change.

FPG Director, Katharine Stout will be leading Gallery Tours of our current exhibition 'Storm Warning', which explores the impact of climate change on coastal communities. These will be happening at 12pm and 2pm.

There is something for everyone! Please book via Eventbrite for your free ticket, or just drop in on the day.

Digifest 2023

Digifest is back for a week of exploring, imagining, and creating with the digital arts. With workshops open to all ages, abilities and backgrounds, there is something for everyone to get their teeth into. Join us to explore a whole new world of possibilities! Have a look at all the week's events below.

Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th October, 2pm to 4pm

Noise Makers led by Loula Yorke

Ages 10 -19

Across two 2-hour sessions, we will use the prompt 'reduce, reuse, recycle' to make, find and sample sounds from our everyday environment and surroundings, using iPads and sound recorders to turn them into something new and exciting. Come with your imaginations wide open to all the possibilities!

Book your free tickets on our Eventbrite.

Thursday 26th, Friday 27th and Saturday 28th October 2pm to 5pm

Electronics, Arts and Robots led by Connor Turansky

Ages 13+

Join us and artist Connor Turansky at Focal Point Gallery for three days of workshops open to all aged 13 plus, where we will explore electronic art, 3D mapping and robot crafts.

These workshops follow on from one another, but equally function as stand-alone sessions. You can join all three, two or just one – we are flexible!

If the cost is, in any way, a barrier, please email fpglearning@southend.gov.uk

Book your tickets on our Eventbrite.

2) Scam Alerts

Halifax

We have been contacted by a member who received the below email. The member has advised us that this is a scam, look at the sender which is certainly not Halifax! Please be aware

From: Halifax <mandieverett@tiscali.co.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 7:13:13 pm

To:

Subject: We attempted to reach you recently via telephone and encountered difficulties!

We want you to recognize a fraudulent email if you receive one. Halifax will always greet you personally with your name and quote either the last four digits of your account number or the last three characters of your postcode: . Learn more at Halifax Fraud Prevention Centre.



Dear

We attempted to reach out to you this morning and it appears that your current phone number is not connected. In light of recent advancements in cybersecurity protocols, it is now more important than ever to have your accurate contact details on file.

Financial institutions across the UK are bolstering their security frameworks, particularly during electronic transactions and when accessing Internet Banking portals. These reinforced security layers are meticulously crafted to protect your account from unauthorized access and potential fraudulent activities.

Refresh your contact

To foster a resilient and secure banking journey, we cordially invite you to update your contact details through your Internet Banking gateway at your earliest convenience. This step is not only vital in enhancing the security of your account but also ensures uninterrupted access to our digital services. Maintaining up-to-date contact information will enable us to establish swift communication for essential security validations, especially during online transactions or when utilizing your Internet Banking portal.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and remain committed to safeguarding your financial information and providing a secure banking environment.

Need help with login details? Visit [Halifax Login Issues](#) for assistance.

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Halifax Bank plc is covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and the Financial Ombudsman Service.

3) National Corner

Prime Minister's announcement on smoking

Prime Minister, last Wednesday, announced that he is to create a 'smokefree generation' by ending cigarette sales to children aged 14 and under.

This potentially significant public health intervention is aimed at reducing tobacco smoking which could reduce the burden on the NHS alongside other public health benefits.

In summary, the Government's announcement on Wednesday would see **the legal cigarette buying age rise** by one year each year for those born on or after 1 January 2009, to prevent them and future generations from legally smoking. The Prime Minister also announced the intention to more than **double the funding available for local stop smoking services** to support a total of around 360,000 people a year to quit smoking nationally.

The Government has also signaled its intention to **curb the rise in youth vaping** by consulting on measures to reduce the appeal and availability of vapes to children whilst ensuring vapes are available for adults to help them quit smoking. **Finally, it is proposed by the Government to strengthen enforcement activity**, through new funding and new powers.

For information, the Government's press release can be found at: Prime Minister to create 'smokefree generation' by ending cigarette sales to those born on or after 1 January 2009 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The full published paper can be found at: Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Additional £8 billion for road repairs

An additional £8.3 billion will be provided to councils to help them maintain local roads, it has been reported. The funding will be delivered over 10 years and is as a result of money that is no longer being used to build the northern leg of HS2. The LGA previously highlighted that annual spending on road maintenance had been reduced from £4 billion in 2006 to £2 billion in 2019.

Traveller sites

The Gypsy Council has called on councils to do more to support legal traveller sites in their local areas. They say there are inconsistencies in provision for travellers between local areas. They highlight LGA guidance which suggests councils involve Gypsies and Travellers (GRT) in the planning process; consult with GRT communities early and often; be transparent to build trust; and integrate GRT accommodation needs into new planning systems.

Abuse of waste collection crews

There has been a doubling in the number of attacks on waste collection crews last year, reports suggest. According to freedom of information requests, 189 were attacked last year.

Labour pledge to provide additional NHS appointments

Labour has committed to provide £1.1 billion per year to ensure there were 40,000 out-of-hours appointments each week to tackle waiting lists. As the Labour Party conference begins in Liverpool, the party has also promised to work with councils to set up specialist further education colleges to tackle local skills shortages.

Police to target anti-social behaviour hot spots

Hotspot policing to counter anti-social behaviour is due to be rolled out across all police forces after successful trials took place. The measures have been trialed in

10 police forces and has cut incidents of such behaviour by up to a half but also reduced overall crime by 24 per cent.

Unwell over-50s at risk of poverty unless UK benefits rise, study finds

Thousands of Britons who are still up to 14 years away from receiving their state pensions and are too sick to work risk being consigned to years of poverty unless the Government reforms working age benefits, researchers have concluded. The Health Foundation think-tank said that welfare policy had yet to adjust to these new realities and called on ministers to bolster the value of Universal Credit.

Hiring boom fading but three-quarters of UK firms still struggle to find staff

Three-quarters of UK firms are still struggling to recruit staff, research has found, but the post-pandemic “jobs boom” appears to be in decline, with hiring intentions continuing to fall last month. A survey by the British Chambers of Commerce found that 73 per cent of the almost 5,000 companies it polled had faced hiring difficulties in the July to September quarter – a nine percentage point drop from the record high of 82 per cent in the final three months of 2022.

Repeat shoplifters could lose option for trial by jury

Repeat shoplifters could reportedly lose their right to opt for trial by jury in plans being considered that would help to clear the crown court backlog. Retailers have recorded a more than doubling of shoplifting offences during the past six years to reach eight million last year and costing the industry nearly £1 billion a year, according to the British Retail Consortium.

£200m of lottery cash will focus on ‘clusters’ of heritage in poorer areas

A new £200 million scheme will for the first time focus on clusters of heritage sites, including ancient monuments, protected landscapes, museums and an abbey, in specifically targeted, poorer areas of Britain. The new 10-year plan by the National Lottery Heritage Fund means the fund can spend its cash on preserving and improving a group of significant landmarks inside a concentrated development area, rather than only spending its money on individual projects.

Millions of Covid jabs stockpiled in case over-50s ‘surge campaign’ is needed to protect NHS

Millions of doses of the Covid vaccine are being stockpiled in case of a possible “surge campaign” to protect the over-50s against the virus and prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed this winter, it is reported.

Label ultra-processed foods ‘addictive’ to tackle obesity, say scientists

Scientists have said ultra-processed foods including chocolate bars should be labelled as “addictive substances” to help tackle soaring global obesity rates. Writing in the British Medical Journal, they argued junk food can be just as addictive as alcohol, tobacco or gambling and should be taxed and labelled to reflect this.

Ministers vow to protect children with action on disposable vapes

The Government will set out its plans for dealing with vapes so they are no longer targeted at children, in a consultation document to be published this morning. Among the options being considered are a complete ban on disposable vapes, restricting

their sale, and ensuring they cannot be sold in an array of flavours and colours which might appeal to youngsters.

Christmas lights

Councils across England are reportedly cancelling their Christmas lights, markets and cutting back on trees amid the cost of living crisis. Several towns and boroughs are facing budgetary challenges which have seen them cancel light switch-ons.

NHS waiting list rises

The waiting list for planned NHS treatment in England has gone up again to another record high of 7.75 million. The figure at the end of August was up more than 100,000 on the month before.

Royal Mint unveils new coin design

A new collection of coins bearing the face of the King has been unveiled by the Royal Mint, with designs inspired by plants and animals found across the four nations. The eight designs, overseen by King Charles, depict the flora and fauna found in different parts of the UK and reflect his interest in conservation and nature.

4) Crime Report 2nd to 8th October 2023

Ward	Southchurch
Crime Reference Number	42/177708/23
Offence Description	Theft from a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	03/10/2023 13:35
Committed Date (From)	30/09/2023
Street partial postcode	SHERWOOD WAY SS2 4
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN BY MEANS UNKNOWN HAVE STOLEN THE VICTIMS DISABLED BADGE FROM HIS SILVER NISSAN MICRA.

Ward	Southchurch
Crime Reference Number	42/178792/23
Offence Description	Residential Burglary of a Home (Dwelling)
Reported Date and Time	04/10/2023 23:17
Committed Date (From)	04/10/2023 07:45
Street partial postcode	MAPLIN WAY NORTH SS1 3
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS GAINED ENTRY TO THE PROPERTY VIA THE UPSTAIRS REAR WINDOW. UNKNOWN WHAT ITEMS HAS BEEN STOLEN BUT ALARM SYSTEM HAS BEEN CUT TO DISABLE.

Ward	Thorpe
Crime Reference Number	42/177201/23
Offence Description	Residential Burglary of a Home (Dwelling)
Reported Date and Time	02/10/2023 16:52

Committed Date (From) 02/10/2023 15:09
Street partial postcode **COLBERT AVENUE SS1 3**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ENTRY BY SMASHING THE REAR DOOR AND THEN STOLEN 4 LAPTOPS AND £10,000 WORTH OF JEWELLERY WITHIN.

Ward **Thorpe**
Crime Reference Number 42/177487/23
Offence Description Attempted Residential Burglary of a Home (Dwelling)
Reported Date and Time 03/10/2023 06:28
Committed Date (From) 03/10/2023 04:05
Street partial postcode **WALTON ROAD SS1 3**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS ATTEMPTED TO BREAK INTO THE VICTIMS PROPERTY.

Ward **Thorpe**
Crime Reference Number 42/177493/23
Offence Description Attempted Residential Burglary of a Home (Dwelling)
Reported Date and Time 03/10/2023 06:13
Committed Date (From) 03/10/2023 04:31
Street partial postcode **GREENWAYS SS1 3**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS ATTEMPTED TO BREAK IN TO VICTIMS RESIDENTIAL DWELLING USING AN UNKNOWN TOOL.

Ward **Thorpe**
Crime Reference Number 42/179407/23
Offence Description Theft of a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time 06/10/2023 07:38
Committed Date (From) 05/10/2023 18:00
Street partial postcode **ST. AUGUSTINES AVENUE SS1 3**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS STOLEN VICTIMS WHITE TRANSIT VAN, INDEX FP61JRV, BY MEANS UNKNOWN FROM OUTSIDE VICTIMS LOCATION.

Ward **West Shoebury**
Crime Reference Number 42/180176/23
Offence Description Residential Burglary of a Home (Dwelling)
Reported Date and Time 05/10/2023 12:58
Committed Date (From) 01/10/2023 20:30
Street partial postcode **BISHOPSTEIGNTON SS3 8**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS ENTERED THE VICTIMS HOME ADDRESS AS A TRESPASSER. MESSY SEARCH COMPLETED. NO ITEMS TAKEN.

5) List of Applications Registered Week Ending 13th October 2023

Application Number: 23/01552/FULH **Ward: Southchurch**
Officer: Gabriella Fairley
Erect part single/part two storey rear extension, first floor front extension and extend existing vehicle crossover onto Southchurch Boulevard
176 Southchurch Boulevard Southend-on-sea Essex

Application Number: 23/01545/FUL **Ward: Thorpe**
Officer: Kara Elliott
Erect single storey rear extension at basement level with balcony over and rear staircase
Basement Flat 109 Eastern Esplanade Southend-on-sea

Application Number: 23/01566/FULH **Ward: West Shoebury**
Officer: James Benn
Hip to gable roof extensions, install front and rear dormers with juliette balcony to rear to form habitable accommodation in loftspace
198 Bishopsteignton Shoeburyness Essex

Application Number: 23/01606/FULH **Ward: West Shoebury**
Officer: Kara Elliott
Erect first floor front extension
9 Hayes Barton Shoeburyness Southend-on-sea

Prior Notifications The application(s) below are for prior approval of details submitted pursuant to exercising permitted development rights granted by the General Permitted Development Order 1995. If further information is required, please contact the case officer for an explanation or clarification.

Application Number: 23/01523/PA64 **Ward: Southchurch**
Officer: James Benn
Change of use from shop (Class E) to one dwellinghouse (Class C3) and alter front elevation (Prior Approval)
177 Hamstel Road Southend-on-sea Essex

6) List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 8th October 2023

APPLN. NO: 23/01328/FULH **Ward. Southchurch**
Officer: Jennifer Doherty
ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE/REAR EXTENSION
90 SHOEBURY ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX
Decision: Refuse Permission

APPLN. NO: 23/01320/PA56

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT ADDITIONAL STOREY TO EXISTING BUILDING TO PROVIDE 2 SELF-CONTAINED FLATS (PRIOR APPROVAL)

LINDUM 45 BURGESS ROAD THORPE BAY

Decision: Prior Approval Refused COU

APPLN. NO: 23/01365/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: James Benn

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION

41 FERMOY ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

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