

E-Newsletter – 12th January 2024

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1) Information Corner



Who: **BERA**

What: **Coffee Morning**

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

When: **Thursday 18th January 2024 at 10.00am to midday**

Our next coffee morning is on Thursday 18th January, so please join us for engaging chats and laughter, accompanied by free tea, coffee, and homemade cakes. Bring along a friend and we look forward to welcoming you once again.

Renewal of your BERA Membership 2024

As you are aware, your BERA membership runs for a calendar year from 1st January – 31st December. It is important that renewals are paid as soon as possible, as this will enable BERA to plan activities involving advance payments of money.

As our secretary has many hundreds of members to renew, she is unable to complete a form for all so may we kindly ask that even if you are **paying online, that you still complete the membership form below and return it to Ron**, in order for us to have your current contact details (even if they have not changed).

The membership fee will still only be £10.00 per year, per household. This equates to less than 20p per week for all of the information that is sent to you on our regular newsletters, along with the protection of the area we live. Of course, if you still wish to donate more than the membership fee, this will be gladly received.

BERA – The Residents’ Association

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM for new and existing members

January - December 2024

Please pay £10 by cash or make cheques payable to:

“Burgess Estate Residents Association”

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

First Name:

Surname:

Address:

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

Telephone:

E-mail:

Please include your email address, to enable us to send you weekly E-Newsletters.

Please return the completed form with payment to:

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

2) National Corner

Bank of England may cut interest rates more quickly

The Bank of England may bring forward the date of its first interest rate cut after three leading forecasters issued an update suggesting the inflation rate will halve to 2 per cent by April. The Oxford Economics consultancy and analysts at Investec and Deutsche Bank have reassessed their outlook for inflation in 2024 and concluded that the consumer prices index will fall below 2 per cent within four months.

Nuclear power expansion

The Government will build a new large scale nuclear plant as part of a £300 million nuclear fuel programme that would reduce reliance on overseas supply. Nuclear power currently provides around 15 per cent of the UK's electricity but many of the country's reactors are due to be decommissioned over the next decade.

UK economic growth rebounds in November

The UK's economy rebounded in November after shrinking during the previous month, according to official figures. The economy grew by 0.3 per cent in the month, which was stronger than expected and came after a contraction in October.

Break in small boat Channel crossings hits four-year high

No migrants have been detected crossing the English Channel in the past 25 days, the longest break since February 2020. Home Office figures show that the last boat to arrive on British shores was a single vessel carrying 55 people on 16 December.

Pavement maintenance

Research by Living Streets, a charity which promotes walking and campaigns for a better environment, last year said trips and falls on pavements in England cost health and social care budgets as much as £500 million a year and resulted in about 30,000 people being admitted to hospital. A report on "street clutter" released in October by the thinktank Centre for London identified objects such as planters, bollards, phone boxes and redundant signs, with the most prevalent being sandwich or A-board advertising outside shops and restaurants, dockless hire e-bikes and bags of rubbish placed on the pavement for collection.

3) Crime Report 1st to 7th January 2024

Ward	Southchurch
Crime Reference Number	42/2043/24
Offence Description	Interference with a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	02/01/2024 01:56
Committed Date (From)	02/01/2024 01:55
Street partial postcode	RIVIERA DRIVE SS1 2
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECT NAMED WAS FOUND CROUCHED DOWN BY VEHICLE WITH NUMBER PLATES REMOVED AND AT SUSPECTS FEET.

Ward **Thorpe**
Crime Reference Number 42/956/24
Offence Description Residential Burglary of a Home (Dwelling)
Reported Date and Time 02/01/2024 21:18
Committed Date (From) 02/01/2024 21:00
Street partial postcode **WOODGRANGE DRIVE SS1 3**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECT UNIDENTIFIED HAS ENTERED VICTIMS ADDRESS AND CAUSED DAMAGE WITHIN TO A VALUE UNKNOWN.

Ward **Thorpe**
Crime Reference Number 42/1247/24
Offence Description Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)
Reported Date and Time 03/01/2024 15:52
Committed Date (From) 03/01/2024
Street partial postcode **WOODGRANGE DRIVE SS1 3**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAVE SMASHED VICTIMS WING MIRROR OFF HIS FORD.

Ward **Thorpe**
Crime Reference Number 42/2159/24
Offence Description Theft from a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time 05/01/2024 07:34
Committed Date (From) 04/01/2024 18:00
Street partial postcode **EASTERN ESPLANADE SS1 3**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS GAINED ACCESS TO THE INFORMANTS FORD BY USING UNKNOWN TOOL TO DRILL INTO THE SIDE AND BACK DOORS AND HAS REMOVED SPECIALIST SEARCH EQUIPMENT.

Ward **Thorpe**
Crime Reference Number 42/2213/24
Offence Description Interference with a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time 05/01/2024 09:46
Committed Date (From) 04/01/2024 20:00
Street partial postcode **EASTERN ESPLANADE SS1 3**
Offence Details (MO)
SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS DRILLED A HOLE IN THE SIDE DOOR OF VICTIMS FORD. SUSPECT HAS CONDUCTED A TIDY SEARCH OF THE VEHICLE NOTHING REMOVED FROM VEHICLE.

Ward **Thorpe**
Crime Reference Number 42/2306/24
Offence Description Interference with a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time 05/01/2024 12:36
Committed Date (From) 04/01/2024
Street partial postcode **EASTERN ESPLANADE SS1 3**
Offence Details (MO)

SUSPECT UNKNOWN HAS CAUSED DAMAGE TO VEHICLE BY ENTERING THE VEHICLE, MESSY SEARCH BUT NOTHING STOLEN.

Ward	Thorpe
Crime Reference Number	42/2453/24
Offence Description	Theft from a motor vehicle
Reported Date and Time	05/01/2024 09:10
Committed Date (From)	05/01/2024
Street partial postcode	EASTERN ESPLANADE SS1 3
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECTS UNKNOWN HAVE GAINED ENTRY TO VICTIMS VEHICLE AND REMOVED POWER TOOLS TO THE VALUE OF 15000GBP.

Ward	Thorpe
Crime Reference Number	42/3456/24
Offence Description	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5,000)
Reported Date and Time	07/01/2024 14:35
Committed Date (From)	07/01/2024 12:30
Street partial postcode	THORPE ESPLANADE SS1 3
Offence Details (MO)	SUSPECT HAS USED AN UNIDENTIFIED ITEM TO KEY VICTIMS MAZDA. SUSPECT HAS THEN DRIVEN OFF IN A FORD.

4) Scam Alerts

Can you detect a phone scam?

It can be challenging to detect phone scams, as there are many types in operation. One common example is when fraudsters spoof phone numbers to impersonate your bank's fraud department. They then urge you to transfer your money to a 'safe' account before disappearing with your cash.

Scammers can be persuasive, so do not trust calls that come out of the blue.

5 ways to stop nuisance calls and avoid phone scams

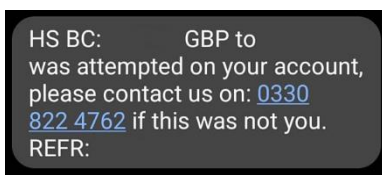
- Landlines and mobile numbers can be registered with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) free of charge. This will not stop scammers but it should reduce unwanted sales and marketing calls.
- Ask your landline provider if it offers call blocking. BT has Call Protect, Sky has Talk Shield and TalkTalk offers Call Safe, all of which allow you to screen unrecognised numbers and block unwanted callers. Call-blocking phones are another option. For example, the trueCall device plugs into your existing phone, or you could opt for a phone with built-in features.
- Mobile phone call blocking iPhones and Android phones offer call blocking, spam protection and caller ID verification. Third-party apps are also available.
- Call 159 to stop bank scams. Do not give out sensitive information to anyone on an incoming call. Hang up, wait for five minutes and either call the firm on

a trusted number (such as on their website) or dial 159. This will connect you to your bank's fraud team, under a scheme most banks have signed up to.

- Do not trust caller ID. Number-spoofing technology enables scammers to easily clone the telephone number of a bank or other trusted company, meaning you cannot trust the caller ID alone. This is true of text messages too, so do not assume a text is from your bank even if it appears that way. If in any doubt, contact the relevant business using a trusted method such as the number printed on the back of your bank card.

Text scams to watch out for:

1) Fake bank texts impersonating HSBC

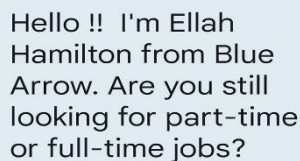


HS BC: GBP to was attempted on your account, please contact us on: [0330 822 4762](tel:03308224762) if this was not you. REFR:

It is sent from a random mobile number and tells you that you have spent a certain amount of money at a particular brand.

It states that the transaction was attempted on your account and to call a number if it was not you who made the transaction. This most likely leads to a vishing scam where a scammer then calls you impersonating the bank, and your personal and financial details will be asked for.

2) Recruitment scams



Hello !! I'm Ellah Hamilton from Blue Arrow. Are you still looking for part-time or full-time jobs?

Out-of-the-blue messages that claim to be from recruitment companies are also circulating. Sometimes the texts impersonate a legitimate person or company.

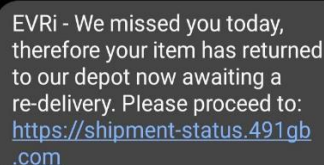
These texts are the start of job scams, which go on to steal your money in various ways. Once you engage with the fraudster, they may ask you for money upfront, such as for work equipment, and then vanish after the money is sent. Or they ask for scans of documents like passports or driving licences to steal your identity.

Fraudsters also send texts that advertise simple work-from-home jobs such as completing surveys. These will appear legitimate as you start doing the 'job'. However, you will eventually be asked to invest some of your own money to complete more tasks and you will never be able to withdraw what you've earned.

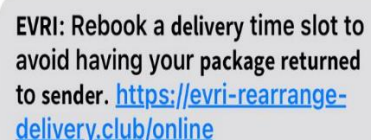
3) Missed delivery texts



POST OFFICE: Simon attempted, but was unable, to deliver a parcel today from Royal Mail. To track and reschedule a redelivery, go to collect-fee-gb.com



EVRI - We missed you today, therefore your item has returned to our depot now awaiting a re-delivery. Please proceed to: <https://shipment-status.491gb.com>



EVRI: Rebook a delivery time slot to avoid having your package returned to sender. <https://evri-rearrange-delivery.club/online>

As so many of us wait for deliveries, scammers bank on us clicking on dodgy links in 'missed delivery' texts. These scam messages impersonate popular delivery companies including DPD, UPS, Evri and the Post Office.

A text impersonating the Post Office and the Royal Mail tells you that your parcel is unable to be delivered and prompts you to follow a malicious link to 'reschedule a redelivery'.

The link leads to a convincing fake Royal Mail website which asks for your postcode before asking you to pay £1.45 for your parcel to be redelivered. This is where your personal and financial data will be stolen.

There are also scam texts imitate delivery company Evri, which also leads to dodgy phishing websites impersonating the brand. Both texts ask you to follow the link to arrange the redelivery of a missed item and are sent from random mobile numbers.

4) Wrong number scams

Scammers attempt to groom you into their elaborate fraudulent schemes by sending 'wrong number' texts.

These texts begin by saying something you would say to a friend, such as: 'It was nice seeing you the other day,' in anticipation of you replying asking who it is.

The scammer will then say a random name and you will tell them that they have the wrong number. This typically leads to a conversation which ends with a dodgy crypto investment scheme being promoted by the scammer.

5) HMRC refund text

Scammers are impersonating HMRC in a bogus tax refund text which tells you that you are owed £277.

It then prompts you to follow a malicious link to 'claim your tax refund'.

If you receive a text claiming to be from HMRC, log in to your official HMRC online services account to verify any information in it.

HMRC does send texts to some customers, but it will never ask for personal or financial information. Never click on links in messages claiming to be from HMRC.

Avoiding and reporting scam texts

Unsolicited texts are always something to be wary of. If you do receive a text like this:

- Avoid following any links in the message.
- Be suspicious of texts asking for personal information.
- To verify the legitimacy of a text, contact the company that it claims to be from directly or log in to your online account with the company using its official website.
- Do not reply to the message as this will let the scammer know that the number is active.
- You report scam texts by forwarding the message to 7726.

If you have been scammed, call your bank immediately using the number on the back of your bank card and report it to Action Fraud.

5 List of Applications Registered Week Ending 12th January 2024

Application Number: 23/02022/FUL

Ward: Thorpe

Officer: Scott Davison

Subdivide existing building to form a separate self-contained office at ground floor level and separate self-contained offices at first and second floors

161 - 163 The Broadway Thorpe Bay 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: 24/00018/PA64

Ward: West Shoebury

Officer: James Benn

Change use of existing ground floor commercial unit (Class E) into one self-contained flat (Class C3) (Prior Approval)

67 West Road Shoeburyness Southend-on-sea

6 List of Decisions Issued Week Ending 7th January 2024

APPLN. NO: 23/01789/FULH

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: James Benn

ERECT PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND PORCH TO FRONT, EXTEND EXISTING DORMERS TO SIDES AND ALTER ELEVATIONS (AMENDED PROPOSAL)

48 LADRAM ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 23/01756/AMDT

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Scott Davison

APPLICATION TO VARY CONDITION 02 (APPROVED PLANS)-AMENDMENTS TO THE REAR FIRST FLOOR DOORS AND WINDOWS AND EXTENDED BALCONY AND GROUND FLOOR EXTENSION - PLAN NUMBERS P1000 REVISION B, P1001 REVISION E (MINOR MATERIAL AMENDMENT TO PLANNING PERMISSION 23/00887/FULH DATED 28.07.2023

168 BURGES ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 23/01791/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Gabriella Fairley

HIP TO GABLE ROOF EXTENSION WITH DORMERS TO SIDES TO FORM HABITABLE ACCOMMODATION IN THE LOFTSPACE, ERECT PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION

89 PARKANAUR AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

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