



# QUEENSTOWN

## SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL

### newsletter

**NEW YEAR 2022**

**Volume 5, Number 1**

*This e-Newsletter contains no confidential information, and should be passed on to all your residents and anyone else whom you think might be interested.*

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## **QUEENSTOWN OUR TEAM**

**Sgt Aneke Jones**

**Sgt Tarik Mkinsi**

**Acting Sgt Leah Arbuckle**

**PC Connor Landymore**

**PCSO Anthony Ioannou**

**PCSO Manuela Marin**

**PC Alex Bland**

**PC George Beckley**

**PC Charley Shearing**

<https://www.met.police.uk/a/yourarea/met/wandsworth/queenstown/>

### **Top Reported Crimes for November 2021**

**Personal Robbery 18**

**Miscellaneous theft\* 19**

**Harassment 28**

\*Theft other than from a person, motor vehicle, residential or non-residential property

**How to provide information - on-line reporting**

**[fearless.org](https://fearless.org)**

### **ANONYMITY PROMISE**

**Fearless is a service that allows you to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously. This means you don't have to give us any personal details**

**Just Click on the box marked CONTACT US ANONYMOUSLY**

### **REPORTING A CRIME**

**Call 101 or visit [www.met.police.uk](https://www.met.police.uk)**

**In an EMERGENCY ALWAYS dial 999**

## RIVERSIDE RADIO

### THE RIPPLE EFFECT – BEHIND THE BADGE

We're currently doing a partnership with the Metropolitan Police for our podcast - The Ripple Effect: #BehindtheBadge.

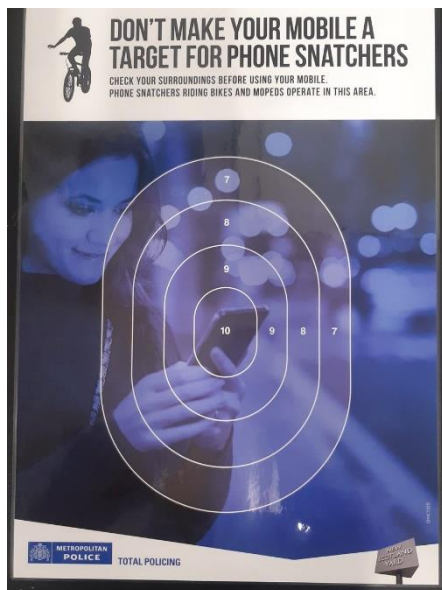
Here's the SoundCloud link to the first episode

<https://soundcloud.com/thisisriverside/the-ripple-effect-presents-behind-the-badge-episode-1>

#### *Awareness posters in Nine Elms area regarding snatches*



*December 6th. Foot Patrol Battersea Power Station*



*While we are in the Nine Elms area, we have been told by Mark Agrippa, Public Realm Manager, and part of the Security Staff at the Power Station Development, that there are always 2 officers on duty at the Tube Station between the hours of 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. If you feel threatened, if possible, make your way there.*

# **THEFT**

**CRIME DOES NOT STOP WHEN THE VIRUS IS ACTIVE**

**EMPTY YOUR CAR OR A THIEF WILL DO IT FOR YOU**



Although it is tempting to leave items in your car because the car is locked, as we know, that hardly ever deters a thief. Don't make it easy for them – empty your car. Recent reports indicate that a few people still think their boot is a safe place to leave things. Sadly, this is not true.

**CAR INSURANCE.** It seems that many people are being caught out when they find out that their car is not insured for commuting. They discover this when they decide to drive to work rather than walk or use public transport. (Or cycle). It may be as well to check your policies.

## **Doorstep delivery thefts are still continuing**

Please do not leave any items on display and remove all items or valuables, such as backpacks, from your vehicles; even if you are just popping into the shops quickly.

This is an opportunist type of crime and by just taking these few steps will reduce your risk in becoming a victim. Every day we see more and more reports, UK wide.

## **Thefts in Battersea Park**

Remember the guidelines. Walk with other people at night. Do not use your 'phone, not even to keep it to hand. At the April SNP Meeting it was reported that there is now a Protection Agreement in place with Battersea Park, so that information and CCTV footage could be shared.

## Catalytic Converter Theft

 METROPOLITAN POLICE

### Catalytic Converter Theft

What makes your catalytic converter valuable?

- Precious metals - Platinum, palladium and rhodium - are coated onto this ceramic structure as catalysts (a catalyst modifies and increases the rate of a chemical reaction without being consumed itself) for the reactions that "clean" the exhaust.
- Did you know that RHODIUM is worth more than GOLD?!

To prevent theft of this precious part you can:

- Park in well lit busy areas.
- Look out for people working under cars for no apparent reason.
- If the vehicle has easy access to underneath i.e vans and 4x4's consider investing in a catalytic converter marking kit, this makes it easier to trace back if it is ever stolen.
- Garage your vehicle whenever possible.



## The latest car part prized by thieves is . . . your airbag



**The safety devices are being sold on to body shops. Which make money – and put lives at risk – by using them in crash repairs.**

Dipesh Gadher, Home Affairs Correspondent. The Times January 2, 2022

First, they came for the stereo; then for the flashy alloy wheels. Now thieves are breaking into cars to steal airbags as part of a lucrative racket that could cost lives.

Criminals are taking less than five minutes to remove the main driver airbag from behind the steering wheel before selling it to unscrupulous garages for up to £500. In some cases, motorists may not be aware that the airbag has been stolen until they are involved in an accident and it fails to deploy.

The AA, Britain's biggest motoring organisation, has likened the theft to "a silent assassin" and urged police to clamp down.

Several police forces, including Cleveland and Greater Manchester, have issued alerts after a spate of airbag thefts. BMWs, Hondas and Toyotas appear to be targeted the most.

Organised gangs are thought to be behind the crime. The airbags are often being stolen for car body shops, which install them for unsuspecting motorists after a crash.

The garage may buy the stolen airbag for between £200 and £500 and then charge a customer a few hundred pounds more. This would still be cheaper than the driver going to an authorised dealership, which charges about £1,000 to replace an activated or faulty airbag.

There is no official data in the UK about the number of airbag thefts, but in America the National Insurance Crime Bureau estimates 50,000 airbags, with a value of \$50 million (£37 million), are stolen annually.

"Theft of car parts has been fairly lucrative for criminals for decades," said Edmund King, the AA's president. "In the 1980s one would return to the car to find a smashed window and a gap on the dashboard where the stereo used to be. In the 1990s one could return to the car to see it jacked up with four alloys missing.

"We even had a spate of car seat thefts, particularly from Audi RS 4s. More recently the trend has been to steal catalytic converters, particularly from hybrids, and now the latest dangerous crime is the theft of airbags, or the entire steering wheel.

“Airbag theft is in many ways the most serious as it can be like a silent assassin. In some cases, the driver doesn’t know about the theft until it is too late and the car has crashed without airbag deployment.”

King urged motorists to park in well-lit areas and to consider installing a steering lock that covers the entire wheel, making it difficult for thieves to unscrew the cover plate and reach the main airbag inside.

“We also need a crackdown on the dodgy dealers who buy these stolen goods,” he said. “Removing an airbag is not only a serious criminal offence but puts the life of the driver on the line.”

Mike Hawes, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: “The automotive industry works closely with the police and Home Office to address vehicle crime, advocating the strongest possible punishments for criminals who are endangering lives.

“Second-hand airbags would normally void warranties but, more importantly, pose a major safety risk to drivers: as non-approved parts, there is no guarantee they will deploy correctly in an accident. Drivers should always have maintenance work conducted by authorised, reputable repairers, who only ever use approved parts sourced from specialist suppliers.”

## **e-scooters – Bumper Edition**

**Police warn e-scooter riders who go on public roads, pavements or cycle lanes they could be taken to court and fined hundreds as boy, 5, suffers multiple injuries after being hit by one in Grimsby**

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By [MARK TOVEY FOR MAILONLINE](#)

**PUBLISHED:** 16:51, 31 December 2021 | **UPDATED:** 18:41, 31 December 2021

Police have issued a warning to e-scooter riders who go on public roads that they could be taken to court and fined as a five-year-old boy is suffering from multiple injuries after being hit by one.

Humberside Police say the boy, named Hugo Tasker, was struck by an e-scooter which was reportedly being ridden by a man in a pedestrian area in Victoria Street in Grimsby on Monday.

'Thankfully he is now recovering at home but he sustained injuries to his face and legs and needed hospital treatment,' a spokesperson for Humberside Police said.

Hugo was out shopping with mum Claire Morris on Monday when they stopped to speak to some friends outside a McDonald's.

Claire said Hugo was playing with his younger brother when a person on an e-scooter crashed into him at around 20mph, lifting him up and knocking him onto the floor.

The rider sped off, despite Claire's shouts, and she says the incident has left her son traumatised.

'My youngest son was throwing toys out his pram and Hugo was running and getting them for him, it became almost like a game,' Claire said.

'On one occasion, Hugo ran to get the toy and was knocked over by someone going about 20mph on one of those e-scooters. They swiped him straight off his feet and he landed face down on the pavement. The person riding it looked back at me and then turned around and carried on.

'I picked him up and there was blood everywhere. Hugo couldn't even stand up because he'd bruised his leg so badly.

'Loads of people gathered round to ring the emergency services, but I took him to A&E myself in the end as it was going to be a two hour wait for the ambulance.

'After three or four hours, he was put on antibiotics to help the swelling in his leg and told he had fourth degree tears to his face.'

Now at home resting, Hugo is still in a lot of pain.

'He's very sore and in pain with bruises all over,' Claire added. 'I don't think I would have been as bothered if the person had stopped.

**While e-scooters which are part of government-backed trials can be hired and ridden legally, riding privately-owned e-scooters on roads, cycle paths and pavements is illegal.**

**As well as having their e-scooter seized if they do, people can get a £300 fine and six penalty points for not having valid insurance. \*\***

**There could also be a £100 fine and three to six points for driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence.**



**Other offences which may result in penalties include riding on the footpath, using a mobile phone, riding through red lights and drink driving offences.**

Humberside Police said: 'This young boy was badly shaken and injured and we want to prevent anyone else suffering from similar injuries or worse.

'Parents, if you have bought an e-scooter for your child at Christmas please make sure they remain within the law. Be aware that privately owned scooters are restricted for use solely on private land with the permission of the land owner.

'It is illegal to use a privately owned e-scooter on pavements, cycle paths or roads.'

E-scooters are classed as powered vehicles, which means they are subject to the same laws as motor vehicles.

But at the moment it is not possible to register, insure or tax e-scooters to be used on the road.

**e-scooters injured 131 pedestrians in Britain over 12 months, according to new figures.**

**37 of the casualties suffered injuries described by the Department for Transport as 'serious'.**

**Other road users injured in e-scooter collisions in the year ending June include 36 cyclists and 32 vehicle occupants.**

**14 casualties were aged 70 and above, while 17 were between 60 and 69. Twenty-one children under 10 were injured.**

**The figures also show that 3 e-scooter users were killed in crashes, and a further 729 were injured.**

Chief Inspector of Sussex Police, Michael Hodder, said: 'E-scooters are becoming more widely available to purchase, and although it is illegal to ride a privately purchased e-scooter in public, they are not illegal to purchase.

'Riders are subject to the same laws a motorist would need to drive lawfully on the road, including the requirement to have a valid licence, insurance, registration plates and vehicle licensing, and to have the correct registration. E-scooters are illegal because there are currently no legal ways to register, insure or tax them.'

Police have the power to seize vehicles under section 165 of the Road Traffic Act.

Across the country there are trials taking place, with the aim of gaining further insight into the environmental, health, and safety benefits of e-scooters.

E-scooters can be hired as part of government-backed trials in more than 50 towns and cities across the country. Only these devices are legal to ride on the roads.

But the government simply recommends wearing a helmet and has not insisted it is mandatory like for other motor vehicle road users.

**Editor adds:** In spite of the regulations, companies are continuing to sell these vehicles as handy commuter aids. They frequently avoid mentioning that riding one of these in a public place is illegal. When they do, it is in 8 or 10 point at the bottom of the ad. Here is one of them, advertised on 27<sup>th</sup> November

## Black Friday savings on electric scooters

Looking for the ultimate holiday gift for the young at heart? Check out the xxxxxxxxxxxx *(No, I am not going to give it publicity)* At just under 12 kilos, this ultra-lightweight high-performance scooter features a minimalist aesthetic composed of magnesium alloy, TORAL carbon fibre from Japan, and one singular *(sic)* piece of flawless aluminium. And with dual motors in both 250W and 500W model *(sic)*, these scooters have plenty of power to navigate cities on your own terms, getting where you want to go faster, and cheaper. .... is made to liberate people from transportation frustrations.....

*A snip at £749, with this minute disclaimer right at the bottom*

Disclaimer: Electric scooters are not to be used on public roads, cycle lanes or footpaths. It is the customers' *(sic)* complete responsibility to ensure that this product is used in accordance with all local and country laws.

Retailers have a legal duty to provide 'clear information' warning e-scooters are illegal on public roads, yet no such disclaimer appears for the majority on amazon.co.uk.

On December 30<sup>th</sup> – one month later -the Daily Mail also has something to say on this:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10356887/Amazons-e-scooter-shambles-online-marketplace-calls-perfect-commute.html>

And if you are involved in an accident with your illegal scooter? It is surprising how many people still refuse to accept that an e-scooter was being ridden illegally. “Taking sensible precautions” still makes it illegal. And one does ask why, with all the publicity that this topic has had, people continue to deny knowledge of the rules.

**From the Sunday Times:**

A man on an e-scooter who had to be put into an induced coma after being clipped by the wing mirror of an overtaking London bus will be a test case for the estimated 750,000 two-wheelers used illegally on public roads.

**A private e-scooter is only legally allowed to be driven on private land. As a result, anybody using one on a public road who sustains an injury might not be able to successfully sue a motorist — even if it was 100 per cent the fault of the bus or car driver.**

Only rental scooters involved in official schemes are currently permitted on public roads.

The man, in his fifties, sustained multiple fractured ribs, a dislocated right shoulder and a collapsed lung, followed by pneumonia. He was wearing a hi-visibility jacket and a helmet when the bus driver overtook him on a summer's morning last year.

His legal team, at Bolt Burdon Kemp (BBK), a firm of solicitors in London, are seeking tens of thousands of pounds of compensation from the bus company's insurers. The man, who works in the health and beauty sector, was in hospital for an extended stay and still has problems with arm movements and chest pain.

Ben Pepper, an associate solicitor at BBK, said: "My client took sensible precautions and was riding his e-scooter safely when a bus driver knocked him down, causing very serious injury. If he had been riding a bicycle instead, it is likely that he would have suffered similar injuries.

"Why should his claim for compensation be any less valid than a cyclist's claim?"

Pepper added: "This claim is significant as it crystallises a growing problem: e-scooters are on our roads with a lack of adequate laws to keep people safe.

"We hope this case will help to give some clarity to the legal position for those injured in e-scooter accidents where the privately owned e-scooter was being ridden on a public road.

“But really we urgently need new legislation and we’re calling on the government to implement laws to make e-scooters safer for riders and other road users and to enable injured people to access compensation.”

An e-scooter rider can end up with a criminal conviction if they ride on public roads, cycle paths and pavements, which works to the advantage of a motorist sued for injuring an e-scooter rider.

In another case, a girl in the Midlands suffered mild traumatic brain injury when her electric scooter collided with a car on the pavement last summer.

On December 14, the driver’s insurers dismissed her claim stating: **“Liability is denied in full. In our opinion, she should not have been riding the pavement on an illegal e-scooter and as a result she drove into our insured’s vehicle.”**

**They also pointed out that she should not have allowed a friend to stand on the scooter behind her. The driver was crossing the pavement from a side road onto the main road.**

Her lawyer, Cheryl Abrahams, a partner at BBK, said: “They’re not even entering into a discussion about whether the driver was negligent. It appears from their correspondence that they’re saying that the fact she was on an e-scooter is enough to deny liability.”

The girl’s mother said she had bought the vehicle at Halfords, the high-street chain, as a Christmas present, costing £399. She had no idea that it was illegal. “It was just a toy.”

She described how her daughter’s friend helped her stagger back home from the scene of the crash, covered in blood and concussed.

The driver knocked on their front door two hours’ later asking for payment for damage to the front bumper and bonnet of the car.

The girl has suffered mood changes, an inability to concentrate that has affected her school grades and she is sleeping abnormally long hours.

The mother said the police were not interested in investigating. She said: “Your rights go out of the window the minute you are on an e-scooter. You have no rights.”

She said the public were confused because scooters involved in official rental trials, currently live in 34 towns and cities, are legal, whereas privately owned vehicles are not. “People think e-scooters are allowed on the road. But the only e-scooters allowed on the road are making money for the council or the government.”

The Motor Insurers’ Bureau, which compensates victims of uninsured drivers, said: “We have urged the Department for Transport to find a solution to the issue of illegal use of e-scooters on public roads and other public places.” It said one option was a form of compulsory motor insurance.

The scale of the problem will put pressure on Grant Shapps, the transport secretary, to intervene. The Department for Transport, which brought forward trials of rented e-scooters in the summer of 2020, has for the first time acknowledged the surge in the number of illegal vehicles, which it estimated at 750,000 in the run-up to Christmas.

Industry sources estimate the number of e-scooters sold will exceed one million before the government decides whether to legalise them. There were 91 serious injuries and nine fatalities last year, and the number of casualties more than doubled from 2020 to 2021.

The department said a range of motoring offences applied to private e-scooters being ridden on public land.

*And, lastly:*

## **Trial delays put a brake on e-scooter makers’ UK ambitions**

Safety concerns, especially over unregulated models, are matched with doubts over green credentials

**Gwyn Topham**

**Guardian Fri 24 Dec 2021**

E-scooter trials are to be prolonged until late 2022 as the government weighs up legalisation, with use of public rental vehicles dwarfed by that of an estimated half million illegal e-scooters in Britain.

Legislation has been put on hold amid increasing safety concerns over private unregulated e-scooters – especially with tens of thousands more vehicles expected to be sold in the UK this Christmas – and scepticism that legal e-scooters can ameliorate congestion or public health.

A negative decision would come as a blow to mobility firms that have invested tens of millions of pounds to enter the UK market, which has lagged European neighbours in embracing e-scooters. Businesses have become concerned at the length of trials which were originally due to last 12 months from mid-2020, but are now being extended to November 2022.

Evangelists for micromobility argue that e-scooters are far greener than cars, and are a transport solution that tackles the “last mile” from home or work, allowing users to connect to buses or trains.

But influential voices in government suggest that far from switching from cars, most e-scooter users were previously cycling, walking or on public transport, which have better health benefits and environmental credentials.

Meanwhile, scientists have warned that the UK’s Christmas scooter spree will consume hundreds of tonnes of precious elements, mainly lithium and cobalt in batteries. According to the Royal Society of Chemistry, unless e-scooters are used daily for many years and replace a car, their impact on the environment is ultimately damaging, with high carbon costs in manufacture as well as mining raw materials.

While MPs on the transport select committee last year recommended legalisation of all e-scooters, privately owned as well as those on rental schemes, government sources suggest that ministers are far from convinced – with safety concerns at the forefront.

At least nine people are known to have died in crashes involving e-scooters in 2021, according to the parliamentary advisory council for transport safety (Pacts). NHS trauma specialists cited in a recent Pacts report said they were now treating more and more e-scooter riders, many with “life changing head injuries”. One London-based neurosurgeon said the severity of e-scooter riders’ injuries were “more similar to those of motorcyclists than pedal cyclists”.

An interim report is due to be published by the Department for Transport (DfT) showing data from the trials which started in July last year in Middlesbrough and now are taking place in 34 areas of England (with Wales and Scotland so far declining the opportunity).

While the government data remains under wraps, a source said it was “not encouraging”, suggesting it showed only a small fraction of e-scooter trips replacing a car journey, with many simply riding for fun, and the biggest proportion riding instead of walking: “On those figures, there wouldn’t be a carbon saving, there would be a carbon increase.”

Ministers wrote to retailers before Christmas to remind them of the law on private e-scooters, after being urged by the executive director of Pacts, David Davies, to hold them liable, as well as warn users of the risks. Davies said: “There is a lot of confusion and we’d like to see more awareness-raising ... certainly some retailers are not going out of their way to inform their customers. They are significantly more risky than bicycles.”

The Guide Dogs charity recently commissioned independent testing that showed a pedestrian hit by a legal e-scooter at the top permitted speed, 15.5mph, could suffer fatal injury.

Operators, as well as Pacts, stress that the safety differences between legal, regulated models and private e-scooters is huge. According to Alan Clarke, director of public policy at Lime, which launched its e-scooters in Milton Keynes in August 2020, followed by Greater Manchester and London this year, the former have “two independent brakes, [are] stability tested, [with] lights you can see 300 metres away”; most people will buy a model with “small wheels, one handbrake, and not fit to be used on roads or cycle lanes.”

Fred Jones, regional general manager at Tier, which operates e-scooters in 13 countries and is part of the trials in York and London, said: “What’s clear is that the majority of anecdotal issues of safety and concern is almost exclusively with the private side. If someone’s willing to do something illegal, they may have a greater disposition to do something irresponsible when riding them.”

Almost 200,000 people have used Lime’s vehicles, making more than 822,000 trips, on average travelling 2km each time. While casualty reports from illegal scooters have overwhelmingly involved male riders, Clarke said rental e-scooters are used by a broad demographic across sex, race and age groups.

Clarke maintains e-scooters can be part of multi-model public transport – even if for now all remain banned from London’s trains and buses after a spate of battery fires – with the busiest docks in the capital found next to tube stations. “That shows us people are using them to link into another transport mode.”

The DfT says it is waiting to gather all the evidence from trials before making any decision. Meanwhile though, it has extended the deadline for a further eight months, until 30 November 2022, to get more data while tweaking the trials to introduce compulsory ID plates.

Operators remain largely upbeat, despite the delay, which will have hit the business plans of the firms hoping to expand across the UK after the trials. Jones said: “Any business would love clarity for five years when you’re taking out warehouses and things.”

But he remains confident e-scooters will be legalised in some form in the UK, with Ireland recently starting legislation to permit their use on roads, one of the last EU states to do so: “The momentum across Europe bodes well.”

*This article was amended on 26 December 2021 to refer to e-scooter crashes rather than accidents.*

## **PROTECT YOUR BIKES**

**Pedal bike thefts** – don’t forget to register your bikes with photo and serial number on **Immobilise.com** If it turns up, the Police can reunite it with its owner.

So, help the police – and yourselves.

[www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)

**First tell the police, then alert others**

[www.bikersunited.co.uk](http://www.bikersunited.co.uk)



## SCAMS



Vaccinations and tests are all free. You will be rung or texted by your GP. Ignore all other calls and visits.

The Tax Office will not ring you. Ignore such calls. They are not going to arrest you if you do not press button 1.

Neither will your NI numbers have been compromised.

And with energy companies failing, and customers switching accounts, watch out for scams such as that reported in a previous newsletter.

### **Little Book of Big Scams**

To be shared with everyone you know. [www.ourwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/the-little-book-of-big-scams.pdf](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/the-little-book-of-big-scams.pdf)

**Useful site on which to report scams:**

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>



## SN Panel Meetings Changes are Coming

**Safer Neighbourhood Panel Meetings** currently take place every two months, on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. They are always held in the same place. Due to Covid our last 9 meetings were held through TEAMS. **The next meeting is on 9<sup>th</sup> February**

However, due to changes to ward boundaries and alterations by the Met to the meeting rules, at present we have no date for any meeting after February. It is likely that we shall only be permitted 4 meetings a year, although we shall be trying to maintain our usual 6 meetings per year, which we have always found effective, even if there are no police present. The Met's reason is for conformity and for reasons of rest-days, and we have every sympathy with the latter reason. But as we have often pointed out, every panel is different and works according to its needs.

The ward boundary changes, taking effect with the next borough elections, will also impact greatly on our current membership. It is calculated that the current Queenstown Ward Panel could lose 11 members and 3 organisations, including the wonderful FAST, to the newly formed Nine Elms Ward, and to a re-formed Queenstown/Shaftebury Ward. Put simply, Queenstown will lose the area to the east of (roughly) Queenstown Road, as well as territory south of the Doddington Estate. It will gain a small part of St Mary Park – Albert Bridge Road, Ethelburga Estate and some of the streets nearby, plus a small part of the current Latchmere Ward. These changes are for demographic reasons since it has been apparent for 10 years that the Queenstown Population was growing far beyond the 12,000 average. Indeed, at a meeting with our MP in 2011, in a discussion on police cuts, it was pointed out that our greatly depleted SN Team was reduced to 1.5 officers.

The new ward will be called BATTERSEA PARK WARD. We shall keep you informed.

## WANDSWORTH COUNCIL ANIMAL WELFARE SERVICE

**From 01.10.21 – 30.11.21**

- Received and investigated 3 complaints of dog nuisance
- Received and investigated 1 complaint of a dangerous dog. This occurred in Battersea Park and was referred to the Parks Police.
- Received and investigated 2 complaints of dog fouling
- Issued 18 verbal warnings in the ward for Housing Byelaws
- Investigated 1 address regarding dog registration
- Issued 1 microchipping letter regarding compulsory dog microchipping
- Registered 4 dogs in accordance with the housing tenancy conditions
- Logged 2 stray dog reports



These came from the following places in the ward.

Doddington, Savona, Rollo, Patmore, Anhalt Road and Chelsea Bridge

Lisa Martin is currently the officer responsible for the Ward. She may be contacted on the general AWS contact information below.

The manager is Mark Callis Tel :020 8871 7132

E. mail: [mark.callis@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:mark.callis@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

Useful contacts:

AWS e mail: [animalwelfare@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:animalwelfare@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

AWS tel: 020 8871 7606. Or for urgent calls 07860 534733

Web Page: [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/dogs](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/dogs)

**Out of hours for captive stray dogs call 020 8871 7490**

EPT e mail: [parkspolice@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:parkspolice@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

The Animal Welfare Service (AWS) (previously known as the Dog Control Service) comprises of 4 staff, who operate a shift system covering the borough from 7.00am to 9pm Monday to Friday. Outside these hours there is a call out service to attend to captive stray dogs only. The service also covers the borough of Richmond, but for captive stray dogs only. The phone number is 020 8871 7490 There are 3 Patrolling officers who are each responsible for certain wards.



Now with well over 3600 subscribers. Warsaw Concert at RAH over 10000 views.

JP's recording sessions with Henry Chandler, of the Beethoven Violin Sonatas, are now completed. Watch this space.

[For his on-line concerts, link below:](#)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMMxbvC9KmdO5slhy\\_pDhKA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMMxbvC9KmdO5slhy_pDhKA)



# Cat Gets Thousands of Votes in Mexico Election

*12,000 Disgruntled Voters in Xalapa, Picked a Cat Over any Human Candidates*

By **MANUEL RUEDA**

**15 July 2013, 18:38**

**ABC News**

July 15, 2013— -- Morris, the cat whose underground political candidacy won him headlines around the world, lapped up 12,000 votes in the election for mayor of Xalapa, Mexico, his handlers claimed on Monday.

The vote tally was nowhere near large enough to give this feline candidate the mayoral job. But it did place Morris fourth in a field of 11 candidates in the race to run Xalapa, population 420,000. Morris earned more votes than the candidate from Mexico's most influential left-wing party, the PRD.

The idea of running a cat for mayor was devised a couple months ago by two recent university graduates, who said that they did not identify with any of the city's human politicians.

On Facebook, the grads joked that Morris would rid the city of its corrupt political "rats" and said that voting for Morris would enable citizens to express their dissatisfaction with the city's rulers in an election that was already "a joke."

The cat's candidacy was hugely popular online, and it prompted disgruntled citizens elsewhere in Mexico to nominate more animals for office.

But Morris' campaign also generated political controversy, with some critics claiming that the pawed pol may have split the opposition vote in Xalapa, enabling Mexico's powerful ruling party, the PRI, to come out victorious.

Morris' handlers lashed out at these criticisms on Monday, in an oped published on the news site Animal Politico.

"Let's be realistic," Morris's campaign team wrote. "Who divided the vote? A simple cat, or the fragmented opposition?"

"If you combined the votes of [the top two opposition candidates], they would have easily had more votes than the PRI."

Critics are also questioning whether Morris actually secured the 12,000 votes that his handlers said he got.

Election officials in Xalapa did not allow the cat to officially register as a candidate (he is not human, after all) and said that any ballot in which someone wrote the cat's name would be considered an "invalid" vote and not be counted.

The votes that Morris supposedly got, are therefore, the votes that have been counted as "invalid" by officials, but of course there are numerous other reasons why votes can be determined to be invalid, like when someone ticks two candidates' pictures.

To get their message across however, hundreds of Morris supporters took cell phone pictures of their ballots on election day, showing how they wrote in the cat's name.

Morris's campaign team thanked its supporters online, and promised that the famous cat would not disappear from politics. His Facebook page, in fact, now advocates for a series of animal rights laws in Mexico.

"We want to thank you," a banner on Morris' page reads. "The evolution of this project is just getting started."

Maybe there could be a job in the cabinet for Larry.

And he certainly wouldn't have to go far to the office.



Or how about our co-Chair, Ken's cats:



## **TO MAKE YOU SMILE**

**I feel so strongly about graffiti in public toilet cubicles, I've signed a partition...**

**Anti-vaccination protesters who attempted to serve spurious legal papers to the former England football captain Alan Shearer delivered the documents to the wrong house, it has emerged.**

**A pie went into a café one day and asked for a sandwich. "Sorry," said the owner. "We don't serve food."**

# LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

## FAST

**Email:**

**[info@fastlondon.co.uk](mailto:info@fastlondon.co.uk)**

**Phone: 07521 164 005**



or

Kafui Brese at **FAST** on 07528 065 764;

**Email:**

**Kafui.Brese@ fastlondon. co.uk**

The FAST project was established in 2012 to work with young people aged 9-25. On the Patmore Estate in Battersea, London, and partnered in 2015 with e poverty. If you feel you could donate, then please do.

For activities offered, see

<https://www.youth-battersea.co.uk/a-to-z-of-youth-organisations/Fast>

Kafui's latest update says:

Yes, things are busy, lockdown and covid has meant that there is a larger increase in the need for support for young people and families. So, myself and my staff are having to pace ourselves, so we do not get burnt out.



# ELAYS

<http://www.elaysnetwork.com>

**OUR GOAL & VALUES: EDUCATE. BRIDGE. NURTURE. EMPOWER. ENGAGE**

To educate young people,  
encouraging them to reach their  
full potential.



To bridge the gap between local  
authorities, institutions, and the  
wider community.

To nurture and create leaders of tomorrow by equipping them with the  
right skill and knowledge.

To Empower young people by actively engaging them in project geared  
towards social change.

To engage at risk young people through our programmes and schemes.

**ELAYS NETWORK IS AN ORGANISATION THAT IS:**

**Inspired by Faith   Education Focused   Diverse   Environmentally  
friendly**

**OUR VISION IS TO SERVE AS A MODEL  
ORGANISATION REPRESENTING THE COMMUNITY,  
HELPING TO CREATE ACTIVE CITIZENS.**

# **WASTE NOT WANT NOT Project**

## **ABOUT US**

Waste Not Want Not Battersea has been in operation since 2017 and is the first project in Battersea to collect surplus food from nearby markets and distribute it through local community and youth centres.

We have built relationships with traders in New Covent Garden Market and other local retailers and save around 1000kg+ of food every week from ending up in the bin.

We love food and respect the whole process that goes into growing it and getting it from the source to our plates. We are dedicated to ensuring that perfectly edible and nutritious food does not become waste and instead is channelled for the benefit of local community.

Our sessions are open to anyone who would benefit from nutritious food and a chance to meet others in their local community. We work to promote an inclusive community environment, where nobody has to prove their need.

### **We are all about:**

- Creating a respectful approach to food and a greater understanding of our throw-away culture
- Promoting sharing and supportive practices in local community
- Building community cohesion and a sense of belonging through meaningful and rewarding dedication to healthy food and human relationships

For more information [info@wastenotwantnotproject.com](mailto:info@wastenotwantnotproject.com)

and on Face Book

<https://www.facebook.com/WasteNotWantNotProject/about/>

## **LIVING STREETS: The UK Charity for Everyday Walking**

**Find out more on**

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/>

**For your Wandsworth Branch, contact**

**Robert Molteno, Secretary, Wandsworth Living Streets**

**on [Robert.Molteno@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.Molteno@gmail.com)**

### **Want to #ReclaimOurPavements in 2022? Join us!**

Living Streets is the champion of clear, clutter free pavements.

Next year, we plan to work harder than ever to put an end to dangerous pavement parking, so everyone can walk or wheel safely in their neighbourhood.

Why join us?

**1. We have the history.** We have led the campaign to end pavement parking for decades. Five of them. And we have never stopped. [Read more on our blog.](#)

**2. The time is now.** We know what momentum looks like - and right now, we have it like never before.

Scotland has introduced a law against it. Wales has committed to regulate it. And England have consulted on banning it.

These are all huge wins in themselves, wins Living Streets and our members have helped achieve.

**3. We listen.** We build our campaigning around real stories, like the 2,000 supporters who sent us their story last summer. [Read some of those here.](#)

**4. We build consensus.** We work in coalition with active travel, transport and disability organisations focused on tackling all obstructions that make our pavements dangerous, especially for disabled people and older adults.

## 5. And all of this means we know what do next

- We will continue to put pressure on the Scottish Government to properly implement its law on pavement parking as early as possible.
- We will hold the Welsh Government to its promise to give councils powers to crack down on pavement parking.
- We will continue to press the Department for Transport to publish its consultation results.
- And we will continue to support our Local Groups to speak up for pavements and streets where they live.

This is how we win. Please support our campaign to end pavement parking for good. [Join us.](#)

If you want to protect pavements for people, there has never been a more important time to join the UK charity for everyday walking.

Support our 2021 Christmas Appeal. Become a Living Streets Member. And let's #ReclaimOurPavements in 2022 and beyond.

**BECOME A MEMBER TODAY**

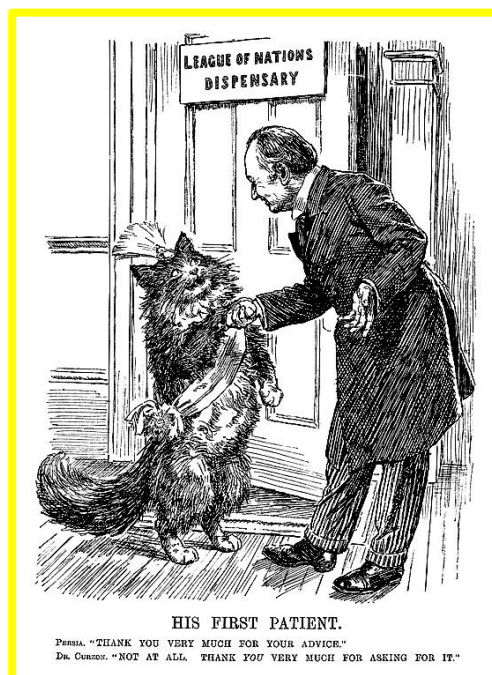
Happy New Year, and happy walking,

Ruth Billingham  
Head of Campaigns and Public Affairs  
Living Streets

## **COUNCILLORS' AND MP's SURGERIES**

**CLOSED FOR THE TIME BEING  
BUT PLEASE EMAIL IF YOU HAVE  
PROBLEMS WORK DOES NOT  
STOP BECAUSE OF CV 19**

Marsha de Cordova, MP, holds weekly surgeries across Battersea, which are by appointment only. To book an appointment: 020 7924 1973



**Message from Marsha:** Usually I would be holding weekly surgeries across Battersea which are by appointment only. However, at the time of writing, my face-to-face constituency surgeries are cancelled. All surgery appointments will be conducted via phone or skype for the foreseeable future. Email [marsha.decordova.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:marsha.decordova.mp@parliament.uk) to arrange a call and someone will get back to you shortly.

### **COUNCILLORS**

First Thursday of the month – ROSE Community Centre, Ascalon Street, SW8 4DL  
10.30 – noon

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month – The Venue, Park Court, Doddington and Rollo Estate, Battersea Park Road, SW11 4ND 1-2.30 p.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month – Committee Room, Trevithick House, Deeley Road, SW8 4XW – 7.30 – 8.30 p.m.

**Surgeries are currently cancelled. Please email casework to:**

[cllr.a.dikerdem@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.a.dikerdem@wandsworth.gov.uk)

[cllr.m.mcleod@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.m.mcleod@wandsworth.gov.uk)

[cllr.P.Walker@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.P.Walker@wandsworth.gov.uk)

## **Report: Marsha de Cordova**

### **(Edited for lack of space)**

#### **New variant Omicron**

**I didn't expect to be writing my final update for the year just as the Government has introduced Plan B measures and the new Covid-19 variant is tearing its way through London.**

**With infection rates at their highest yet and Wandsworth having one of the fastest rising Covid-19 rates in the country, it's important that we all stay safe and follow the guidance. We know that the best protection against the virus is the booster jab, so please get yours as soon as you can.**

**As part of the efforts to get Battersea vaccinated this week, I visited the pop-up clinic on the Doddington Estate to see our brilliant frontline NHS staff and volunteers including our very own Paula Walker (Haggis) working tirelessly to keep our communities safe. I also recorded a video during my visit.**

**You can book using the NHS website or through walk-in clinics.**

**Sadly, the introduction of Plan B did not come with any economic support for businesses including hospitality, retail and the arts. However, the package of support announced is a little too late and does not go far enough - no furlough, no increase to statutory sick pay, and the grants now offered for businesses won't cover losses.**

#### **In Parliament**

**As you will know, this month Parliament voted on introducing Plan B measures to try to curb the spread of Omicron. Measures included compulsory face masks in most public indoor venues, other than hospitality, NHS Covid-19 Passes to be mandatory in specific settings, using a negative test or full vaccination via the NHS Covid-19 Pass and mandatory vaccinations for NHS workers.**

**This month I have spoken in several debates, holding the Government to account on a range of issues, including the lack of investment and support for SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) provision in our schools to protection for leaseholders caught up in the cladding scandal against expensive fire remediation costs. I called on the Government to not remain silent and intervene in the wrongful designation of six Palestinian human rights NGOs as terrorist groups. I also participated in the important debate on Sickle Cell,**

raising the importance of addressing health inequalities in all medical areas as everyone deserves consistent and quality healthcare provision. I voted against the Nationality and Borders Bill at third reading. It does not solve the problem of dangerous boat crossings that are putting lives at risk, and it makes it harder to prosecute and convict people traffickers. The Bill gives the Home Office new Draconian powers to deprive a person of their British citizenship without any warning. I cannot and will not support legislation that has such a far-reaching impact on humanitarian issues.

Following the revelations of multiple parties being held at 10 Downing Street and across government departments, this behaviour is unacceptable and proves yet again that it is one rule for the Government, and another for everyone else. I have written to the Prime Minister highlighting my disgust for his actions and demanding that he firstly apologises and secondly, reconsiders his position.

In early December I met with constituents involved in the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, where we discussed the ongoing struggles and issues Palestinian people still face. Following my meeting with them, I have written to the Minister of State for Middle East and North Africa asking for representation to the Israeli Government to halt all evictions of East Jerusalem, to change planning laws that discriminate against Palestinians and to support a trade ban that prevents goods entering the UK from illegal settlements. We cannot be passive on global humanitarian issues.

Transport workers in London are facing an attack on their pensions, pay freezes and threats to services and jobs, imposed as part of the Government's conditions for bailout of Transport for London. This is unacceptable. Consequently, I joined RMT, ASLEF, TSSA, Unite and the ITF at the Save London's Transport rally to call on the Government to stop its attacks on transport workers and restore operating grants to TfL. London's lifeblood is its transport system; the Government should acknowledge this, and treat transport workers with the importance that they deserve.



### Tackling Injustice

As ever, I remain committed to making this country a fairer place to live. This month I have met with the EY foundation to discuss their Race Report on unlocking barriers in the workplace for young Black people and discussing next steps in working towards making Britain's workplaces more representative+ and less discriminative. I have also met with iKi technologies, a company using innovative technology to help visually impaired people in their daily life. We are currently looking into potential projects for the local

area that would alleviate some of the barriers to travelling as an older or visually impaired person.

Throughout this month I have attended various drop-in events to raise awareness of key issues that still face our country today. I have supported the Paid Miscarriage Leave Campaign, the UN International Day for Disabled People and World AIDs Day. To mark Disability History Month, I had the pleasure of speaking at UNITE's event on 'Disabled Workers Equality as a collective Trade Union issue'.

I also had the pleasure of addressing Wandsworth Black Workers Network Meeting.

### **In Battersea**

As always, this month was filled with constituency visits. I attended the European Movement for Wandsworth & Merton's Breakfast, for launch of their new report and to hear first-hand the experiences of constituents and how Brexit has impacted them, a I visited Share Community to mark the UN International Day of Disabled People, Providence House to celebrate Robert Musgrave's 48 years' service and retirement and thank him for his selfless



service to the community here in Battersea, the Mercy Foundation Centre to celebrate the launch of their song 'As I have Breath' and Wandsworth Foodbank to visit their new operating post at Yvonne Carr Community Centre.

For Small Business Saturday, I visited local businesses in the Balham area, as now more than ever it is crucial to support our local high streets. I hope you will all join me in shopping local and continuing to support our small businesses in 2022.

As part of my continued support for the Covent Garden Market Tenants in their battle for economic support, I was interviewed by ITV news, to highlight their plight and calling for greater support from DEFRA and the Treasury.

It was great to kick off the festive season welcoming some very special visitors Flash and Finn, two donkeys, to Oddono's Gelati to celebrate the start of



Christmas, before attending the switching on of the lights at Northcote Road and Clapham Junction. It was great to see lots of people enjoying themselves.

On National Postal Worker's Day, I visited the Lavender Hill sorting office to thank them for all their work, particularly over the past two years throughout the pandemic. I have also enjoyed supporting the rich arts and culture scene Battersea provides - I had a wonderful evening at The Clapham Grand watching London's Gay Men's Chorus.

I had the pleasure of being part of the St Thomas a Becket Church for their carol service, a lovely way to begin parliamentary recess.

Finally, I know it has been a difficult year, but I am hoping that 2022 will be a better year. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



Best wishes,

Marsha

## **National Domestic Violence Helpline**

This Freephone 24-hour helpline, run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge, is a national service for women experiencing domestic violence. The Helpline can give support, help and information over the telephone. All calls are completely confidential. It offers translation facilities for callers whose first language is not English, and a service for callers who are deaf or hard of hearing is available.

**Contact:**

- Telephone: 0808 2000 247
- Website: [National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline](https://www.ndvhelpline.org/)

## **Is this of interest?**

Transport Focus needs your help to tell us when road signs aren't up to scratch.

We would really appreciate it if you could send in your examples of signs on motorways and major 'A' roads managed by National Highways that are:

- confusing
- damaged
- missing information
- unreadable

These examples will help to get problems with individual road signs sorted. We will also use the information to get policy changed to make things better in the future.

If you are interested in helping and want to let us know about a sign which isn't up to scratch, please follow the link below:

<https://sortmysign.transportfocus.org.uk/>

Please note that we are only asking about road signs in England. If you do not drive on roads in England (or if you do not drive in general), then please just ignore this email.

Kind regards,

Toby

## **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, IN PARTICULAR, NOISE.**

**WBC Noise Control 0208 871 6127**

**Hours of Operation Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 09.00 - 17.00 hrs**

**Thursday (Day time) 09.00 - 17.00 hrs**

**Thursday (Evening) 19.00 - 02.00 hrs**

**Friday 20.00 - 03.00 hrs**

**Saturday 13.00 - 03.00 hrs**

**Sunday (Day time) 09.00 - 04.00 hrs**

**Sunday (Evening) 19.00 - 02.00 hrs**

**Emergency Control will take the call and pass it on to the Noise Officer who will**

**then telephone the complainant for confirmation, and to arrange a visit to the area**

**of the home, to assess the noise, and make a report.**

**Warning – if the noise takes place between 4 pm. and 7 p.m. on a Sunday, you are on your own. Automated menus drive you mad, and you end up at the beginning. There is an email service, but given that it is for non-emergencies only, there is little point in putting it here. Research on the Council's new website as to hours has proved unhelpful and fruitless. We have been told that now at least one estate has never found anyone at the end of a telephone.**

**Could this be why? Read on.**

**Due to the coronavirus pandemic, we have assessed the service we provide responding to noise complaints to ensure that we do not put you or our officers at risk. We will therefore be using a pragmatic approach responding to complaints. We will not be visiting complainants and individuals alleged to be causing noise problems in all cases, unless an assessment has been made that it is safe for us to**

do so. We will still continue to operate our service and respond to complaints using alternative measures such as carrying out noise assessments outside properties in some cases. It is hoped that you will appreciate why we have come to this decision.

Please **do not** report a nuisance using the above telephone number or online form if you live on a council housing estate, as there is separate guidance for this. Use 020 8871 7490.

**Was your Christmas a Happy One? Was it cheerful?  
Most importantly, Was it bright?**

**Labour MP admits accidentally switching on No 10  
Christmas lights early**



Photograph: Hollie Adams/AFP/Getty Images

**[Nadeem Badshah](#)**

Sat 11 Dec 2021 03.57 GMT

It was not quite the grand switching on ceremony that Downing Street had anticipated for its Christmas lights.

A Labour MP has admitted she unwittingly turned on the lights early after mistaking the switch for a doorbell. Carolyn Harris, MP for Swansea East, attended a meeting at No 10 last Wednesday but said that, when the door failed to open, she pressed a grey button nearby.

The door then opened at the same time as the Christmas tree lit up, an hour earlier than scheduled.

Ironically Boris Johnson's first attempt at switching on the festive lights was unsuccessful in front of an audience of children who sang carols.

After a countdown, footage posted on social media showed the prime minister pressing the switch only for the lights to flicker on for a second before turning off again. The lights remained on after a second press of the button.

Harris told BBC Radio Wales: "I got to the door and I'm waiting for the door to open and it doesn't. I think 'that's odd, I thought the door automatically opened'.

"So, I looked on the wall and there's this grey box, so I think it's a doorbell, so I press the grey box – the front door does open – but the Christmas tree lights came on at the same time. I get inside and I say 'the tree looks lovely' and they say 'yes, the prime minister is going to switch them on at five o'clock for the carol service'.

"So, I said 'I think you'll find I've already done that', so I had to go back outside to turn the tree lights off, which was quite funny, especially when the prime minister did turn them on an hour later and they didn't work the first time he tried it."

Harris said she "cried laughing" with fellow MPs afterwards, adding: "I don't know if the prime minister will be very happy that somebody beat him to it after the week he's had."

## *The Pudding Police*

What would you have thought if a member of the SNT had popped round to check whether or not you were pulling crackers, cooking plum pudding or were not quite 100% for work? Did Cromwell ban Christmas?

Well, that's the story. Except that it isn't the whole truth, no matter what some people continue to insist.

To begin with, Christmas remembers the birth of Christ. It is a feast in the Church's year, celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> December, if you are of the Western persuasion; if you are Eastern Orthodox – Russian, for example – then it is 12/13 days later, just about when those on the west are about to celebrate Epiphany. Nothing sinister – they just never changed from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar. Had the Parliamentarians abolished the Christianity, then Christmas as a Christian feast would have been abolished along with it. And people would have found another excuse for drinking and hanging up the holly.

What Cromwell did was what quite a few modern-day residents would like – he tried to ensure that Christmas was not sullied by drunks lying in the gutter, people not turning up for work because of hangovers, and, dare I say it, the occasional fight. In those days they did not have the sophistication of Public Space Protection Orders or Alcohol Free Zones. The best they could do was an arrest by the local Dogberry, and a night in the lockup.



Cromwell, like many Puritans over the previous 80 years, believed that Christmas should be a time of meditation, and not a wasteful superstitious festival that threatened Christian beliefs, during which some people engaged in drunken and other immoral activities. Shops and markets were told to stay open on the 25<sup>th</sup>. And Church services were not to be “special”.

Even in 1646 Parliament had published a new Directory for Public Worship which made it clear that festival days, including Christmas, were not to be celebrated, but be spent in respectful contemplation.



And before that, on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1644, an ordinance was passed encouraging people to treat the mid-winter period

***“with the more solemn humiliation because it may call to remembrance our sins, and the sins of our forefathers, who have turned this feast pretending the memory of Christ, into an extreme forgetfulness of him, by giving liberty to carnal and sensual delights.”***



*An Ordinance of the Lords and Commons Assembled in  
Parliament for the better Observation of the Feast of  
the Nativity of Christ.*

Die Jovis, 19 Decembris, 1644.

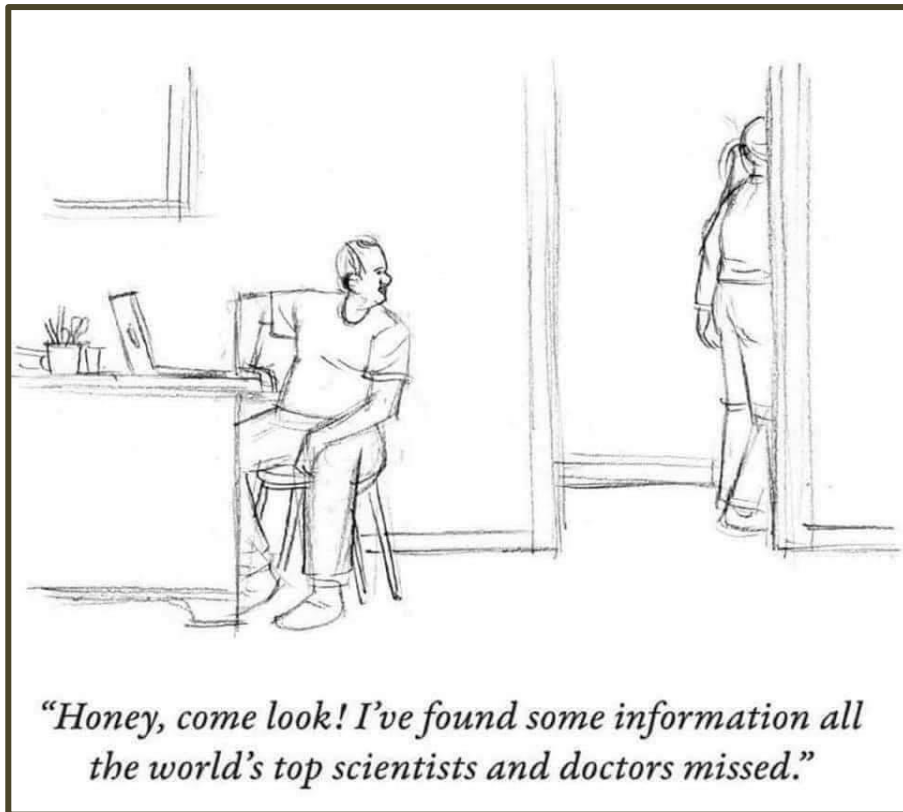
**W**Hereas some Doubts have been raised, whether the next Fast shall be Celebrated, because it falleth on the Day which heretofore was usually called the Feast of the Nativity of our Saviour: The Lords and Commons in Parliament Assembled, do Order and Ordain, that publick Notice be given, that the Fast appointed to be kept the last Wednesday in every Month ought to be observed, until it be otherwise Ordered by both Houses of Parliament, and that this Day in particular, is to be kept with the more solemn Humiliation, because it may call to Remembrance our Sins, and the Sins of our Forefathers, who have turned this Feast, pretending the Memory of Christ into an extream Forgetfulness of him, by giving Liberty to carnal and sensual Delights, being contrary to the Life which Christ led here on Earth, and to the Spiritual Life of Christ in our Souls, for the Sanctifying and Saving whereof Christ was pleased both to take a Human Life and to lay it down again.

So, Cromwell himself did not initiate the “banning” of Christmas celebrations. He has just been given the blame.

Given that troops patrolled London seeking out rule breakers, it sounds rather like Covid rules today, and those “business meetings”. You can just imagine it: “Hey, fellow, hast thou nought better to do than plague us poor folks? Poor Goody One Shoe had her walking stick purloined, and where wert thou?” Rather a lot of people probably trying to get round the rules. Who was going to know if you ate plum pudding that day? And, like most of these things, the extreme Puritans probably went too far. But Christmas was still there – even if cloaked in sober garb for a dozen or so years. Although, as with Piers Corbyn, anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers, in 1647 pro-Christmas riots broke out. People in Canterbury protested with a destructive game of football, followed by a mass brawl. This became known as the Plum Pudding Riots. Sounds as if the Puritans had a point.

And as many people say – do we really need to eat fit to bursting and get drunk, to celebrate the birth of a poor child who showed us a different way of living?





From January 11, asymptomatic people in England who test positive on a lateral flow device (LFD) will no longer require a confirmatory PCR test.

They must still self-isolate immediately.

However, people who have Covid-19 symptoms should still get a PCR test, the new rules state.

A similar system will be implemented in Northern Ireland immediately and in Scotland and Wales from Thursday.

Previously, those without symptoms who tested positive on a lateral flow were asked to order a PCR test and only begin their isolation period when they received the second result.

It meant they would have to isolate for longer than seven days – particularly if there were delays in obtaining the confirmatory result.

**- Why has this been announced?**

The move announced by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) will free up capacity in laboratories for PCR tests for those who have Covid-19 symptoms.

It is a temporary measure while Covid-19 rates remain high across the UK.

An estimated 3.7 million people in the UK had the virus in the week ending December 31, up from 2.3 million in the week to December 23 and the highest number since comparable figures began in autumn 2020, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.

**NB What should I do when I take a lateral flow test?**

People should log their result on gov.uk, regardless of whether it is negative or positive.

The result should be reported within 24 hours.

According to the Government website, reporting the results “helps scientists track the spread of Covid-19 and spot new outbreaks faster”.

**Please note: There may be more changes to come, so keep an eye out. Don't take risks. For some it may be like a mild cold; for others, it drags on and on.**

## RUBBISH



Squirrel Binman aka Oak Botherer

**The Smugglers Way Household Waste and Recycling Centre remains open, but please check back here before you visit to ensure you have the latest information on any new measures we may introduce to keep you and Centre staff safe.**

Before you visit, please note:

1. If you are unwell with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) or in a 10-day household isolation you should stay at home.
2. Track and Trace QR codes will be made available at the HWRC for users of the NHS COVID-19 contact tracing app.
3. You will be required to reverse into a parking bay (to ensure a 2-metre minimum spacing between residents).
4. Only the driver of the vehicle will be permitted to leave the vehicle. If it is essential for a passenger to assist you in carrying a heavy item, please inform a Recycling Advisor before they leave the vehicle.
5. Please maintain social distancing with staff and other residents at all times.
6. You are advised to wear gloves for your own protection.
7. If you are arriving on foot or by bike there will be a pedestrian one-way system in operation.
8. You may wish to view our webcam before you leave home

– <https://www.wrwa.co.uk> – to avoid our busy times.

**Opening Times But check here first: <https://wrwa.gov.uk/centre-opening-times/>**

**Mon – Fri 9am - 4pm**

**Sat 8am - 6pm      Sun 8am - 5pm**

**Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day – Closed**

## **LITTER AND FLYTIPPING**



# RECYCLING

<http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/recycling>

Unsure? See below.

## YES:

Paper, card, cardboard. **Please note:** Large boxes should be taken apart or cut into smaller pieces. It is surprising how many people ignore this instruction, then wonder why their large boxes are not taken away.

Clean Glass bottles and jars. Clean Metal tins, cans, aerosols

Clean Plastic bottles, pots, tubs, trays. Clean Cartons/Tetrapak

## NO:

Food waste, nappies, polystyrene, electrical and cables, DIY material, foil.

Shredded paper.

Decent clothing and textiles can be put in a TRAIID container.

Other metal and wood can be recycled at **Smugglers Way Household Waste and Recycling Centre. See above.**

## USEFUL CONTACTS

<b>Safer Neighbourhood Team</b>	(020) 8247 8691/07407 492 357
<a href="mailto:Queenstown@met.police.uk">Queenstown@met.police.uk</a>	Tweet: @MPSQueenstown
<a href="https://www.met.police.uk/your-area/wandswortg/Queenstown/">https://www.met.police.uk/your-area/wandswortg/Queenstown/</a>	
<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	Graham Harris, Ken Jordan
Any queries are best addressed to the Secretary who can then contact all three.	
Secretary (Susan Ekins)	<a href="mailto:susan.brightonrock@gmail.com">susan.brightonrock@gmail.com</a> (020) 7228 2781
<b>Animal Welfare Services</b>	020 8871 7606. If urgent: 07860 534733
<b>Parks Police</b>	Emergencies - 999/Non-emergency incidents 101
Parks Police patrolling -	07500 959442
Parks Police General Enquiries –	(020) 8871 7532
<b>Community Safety</b> , Roger Lyddon	(020) 8871 6950/07917 542933
	<a href="mailto:Roger.Lyddon@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk">Roger.Lyddon@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk</a>
<b>Michael Blair</b>	<a href="mailto:Michael.Blair@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk">Michael.Blair@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk</a>
<b>Immobilise:</b>	<a href="http://www.immobilise.com">www.immobilise.com</a>
<b>Action Line</b> (for fraud)	<a href="http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/">http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/</a>
<b>Anti-Terrorist Hotline</b>	<b>0800 789 321</b>
<b>Noise Line (24/7)</b>	<b>(020) 8871 6127</b>
<b>Streetlink &amp; rough sleepers</b>	<b>0300 500 0914</b> or visit <b>streetlink.org.uk</b> .
<b>Housing</b> , John Thompson, WBC Housing Dept.	<b>(020) 8871 8342</b>
<b>FAST – Kafui Brese</b>	<a href="mailto:kafui.fastproject@gmail.com">kafui.fastproject@gmail.com</a>
<b>Marsha De Cordova, MP</b>	<a href="mailto:marsha.decordova.mp@parliament.uk">marsha.decordova.mp@parliament.uk</a>
	<b>(020) 7219 0209</b> /House of Commons, SW1A 0AA
<b>Cllr. Aydin Dikerdem</b>	<a href="mailto:aydin.deo@gmail.com">aydin.deo@gmail.com</a>
<b>Cllr. Maurice Mcleod</b>	<a href="mailto:cldr.m.mcleod@wandsworth.gov.uk">cldr.m.mcleod@wandsworth.gov.uk</a>
<b>Cllr. Paula Walker</b>	<a href="mailto:cldr.P.Walker@wandsworth.gov.uk">cldr.P.Walker@wandsworth.gov.uk</a>
<b>Citizens Advice Wandsworth</b>	<b>0300 330 1169</b>
<b>Mon – Fri 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.</b>	
<b>Ben Tickle (parking contravention)</b>	<b>(020) 8871 8002</b> <a href="mailto:btickle@wandsworthgov.uk">btickle@wandsworthgov.uk</a>



Graffiti Line24/7

(020) 8871 6127

Steve Diamond, Deputy Economic Development Officer, Chair of Community Engagement Group for Nine Elms

[SDiamond@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:SDiamond@wandsworth.gov.uk) (020) 8871 6205

Potholes and other repairs link

[https://forms.wandsworth.gov.uk/ufs/ufsmain?formid=REPORT\\_STREET\\_DEFECTS&ebz=1\\_1502354301755&ebd=0&ebz=1\\_1502354301755](https://forms.wandsworth.gov.uk/ufs/ufsmain?formid=REPORT_STREET_DEFECTS&ebz=1_1502354301755&ebd=0&ebz=1_1502354301755)

## Water Leaks and Gas Escapes

Do not assume that someone else has phoned it in. Please do not report these to the Council. The following free phone numbers should be used to report leaks

WATER: 0800 714614

GAS: 0800 111999

All utility companies have to prioritise works across our borough as well as other boroughs in south London. The On-Street Services team actively monitors works on the public highway and works with utility companies to minimise disruption as much as possible.

For instance, via their telephone number, or Mr Don Ogunyemi on Tel No 020 8871 6712, Fax 020 8871 3174, E-mail [dogunyemi@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:dogunyemi@wandsworth.gov.uk).