

# CROYDON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

April 2022

*March saw the bi-annual publication of the Croydon Eye. 5000 copies of the Eye were printed for distribution borough wide by our dedicated coordinators and over 1000 residents have received the Croydon Eye electronically. The Eye brings together local policing reports, crime statistics and crime prevention advice in one convenient place.*



*The March publication also contained an additional leaflet providing scams advice, which unfortunately is becoming an ever increasing problem. This leaflet was funded by the National Neighbourhood Watch Network Community Grant Fund.*

*The Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those dedicated coordinators who have delivered copies of the Croydon Eye come rain or shine.*



*Staff, volunteers and helpers at the Croydon Eye distribution centre.*



## Scam Alerts from Which? and Croydon Council

Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch regularly receives updates from Which? providing up to date information on scams that are doing the rounds. Consider signing up for their alert so you can also receive up to date information. To do this please visit their website: <https://campaigns.which.co.uk/scam-alert-service/>

A graphic for 'SCAM ALERTS'. The word 'SCAM' is in large red letters and 'ALERTS' is in large white letters on a dark grey background. To the right is an illustration of a fishing hook with a blue line, catching several green £50 banknotes. Below the title, on a dark grey background, is a red star icon followed by the text: 'Sign up to get free Which? Scam Alerts emailed to you every week. It only takes a minute.' Below that, in white text: 'Our Alerts will keep you updated on the latest scams circulating online and on social media.' At the bottom, in white text: 'Get free Which? Scam Alerts – stay ahead of the scammers stealing £billions every year.'

Which? Consumer magazine has issued a warning about the latest scam which uses Royal Mail to lure people in by using a phishing email. Extract from the article:

*“The fake Royal Mail chatbot is plausible – it lists a delivery tracking number and shares an image of a parcel explaining that the ‘label was damaged’ to convince you to reschedule the delivery. Clicking the link takes you to a different website, asking for your name, address, and payment details. The small print at the very top of this page – which is only visible when you scroll up on a mobile phone – reveals that adding these details enters you into a ‘Skill Game’ and purchases a three-day trial to bilingua.net costing £2 then £59 every 30 days. A few days later, we noticed that this form switched to promoting a different website – called proplanner.io – costing £62 every 30 days.”*

*Read more and view the video showing the Chatbot at :*

**[https://www.which.co.uk/news/2022/03/watch-out-for-this-royal-mail-chatbot-scam/?](https://www.which.co.uk/news/2022/03/watch-out-for-this-royal-mail-chatbot-scam/?fbclid=IwAR1wtzpbbvRloTRkzxDWimqbdEDiZZFv8Ja4u4pgBqjAtgX1bvCPbGFHL94)**

**[fbclid=IwAR1wtzpbbvRloTRkzxDWimqbdEDiZZFv8Ja4u4pgBqjAtgX1bvCPbGFHL94](https://www.which.co.uk/news/2022/03/watch-out-for-this-royal-mail-chatbot-scam/?fbclid=IwAR1wtzpbbvRloTRkzxDWimqbdEDiZZFv8Ja4u4pgBqjAtgX1bvCPbGFHL94)**



## Scam Alerts from Which? and Croydon Council

*Croydon Borough Trading Standards also have the following advice in regards these types of scams:*

*"Please be very careful when receiving emails and texts from couriers or Royal Mail and if you think you have a parcel due do not click any link – go direct to the actual business website and check the tracking number yourself. "*

**CROYDON**  
[www.croydon.gov.uk](http://www.croydon.gov.uk)

*More generally Croydon Council Trading Standards also state:*

*"If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). The content of Suspicious text messages should be forward to the number 7726 which is free of charge.*



*Please remember to report to Action Fraud 0300 123 2040 if you have actually been the victim of a scam or call Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline 0808 223 1133 if you require further advice."*

**Action Fraud**  
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre  
**0300 123 2040**

## Vital role - Can you help?!



*Our current Hon. Treasurer is looking to step down, we are looking for a volunteer to take over this key role. The candidate will need experience in preparing monthly and annual accounts, dealing with the Charities Commission, making Gift Aid applications and would become a member of the Executive Committee.*

*Is this something you could do? If interested in this roll please contact the CBNWA office on [nhw@cbnwa.com](mailto:nhw@cbnwa.com) to register your interest.*



## Celebrating 40 years of National Neighbourhood Watch

*This year the National Neighbourhood Watch celebrates its 40th Birthday. Many people have some understanding of what Neighbourhood Watch does but how many know how it came into existence?*

*Neighbourhood watch can trace its roots back to 1960's USA.*

*In 1964, 28-year-old Kitty Genovese was stabbed in New York outside the apartment building across the street from where she lived.*

*Two weeks after the murder it was rumoured that 38 witnesses saw or heard the attack, but none of them called the police or came to her aid. This motivated a community response and the very first Neighbourhood Watch scheme was set up.*

*In 1982 the first scheme in the UK, known as Home Watch, was set up in Mollington, Cheshire. Neighbourhood Watch representatives formed local, county and regional groups. In 2007, with the support of the police and the Home Office, the first national umbrella organisation (Neighbourhood and Home Watch) for the movement was established. In 2017 the present Neighbourhood Watch Network was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), regulated by The Charity Commission, to replace Neighbourhood & Home Watch Network. (Source [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk))*

*Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association with its 335 coordinators and approximately 1000 subscribers to its website is an integral part of this organisation.*



**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF CREATING SAFER,  
CONNECTED AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES**





## Fairwell to our dedicated Chairman

*It is with sadness that we have to inform you that our Chairman of 10 years - Brian Udell has decided the time is right for him to stand down and focus on new challenges in his life. It goes without saying that Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch is extremely grateful for Brian's dedicated service to the association over many years. A farewell meal has been organised at the Royal Tandoori in Selsdon. Please do come along if you can.*



*The Chairman; Brian Udell Cordially invites you and your family/friends to support  
Brian's Farewell Charity Fundraising Dinner  
Delicious 3 course Indian meal (Drinks extra)*

*Monday 11th April 2022*

*7pm until 9.30pm*

*£25 per person or £225 for a table of 10*

*Venue: The Royal Tandoori, Selsdon  
226 Addington Rd  
Selsdon  
South Croydon  
CR2 8LD*



*All profit (incl. raffle) will be donated directly to Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association.*

*Please RSVP by email and confirm Payment by Friday 8th April 2022 to Treasurer Chris Thacker -  
(payment options below) & CAN YOU ALSO CC nhw@cbnwa.com into the email to confirm your place  
as numbers are limited.*

**Please quote reference: Croydon NWA Farewell**

**To pay by BACS:**

**Bank: Lloyds Bank; A/C Name: CBNWA; Sort Code: 30-92-45; A/C Number: 03049348**

**I would like.....tickets at £25.00 per person I enclose cheque(s) for £..... made Payable to  
"Croydon" I would like to book ..... table(s) of 10 at £225.00 per table**



## CHAIRMAN'S FAREWELL RAFFLE

*The Charity's Executive Committee has decided that, to coincide with the Chairman's Farewell Dinner, it should hold a raffle, organised and run by its Honorary Treasurer to act as a fun(d) raiser and a way to commemorate the Honorable Chairman Brian Udell who is stepping down after 10+ years of active service to his community.*

*It will, for practical purposes, be restricted to co-ordinators who can include friends and family in their purchase of tickets.*

*Tickets will be £5 each and can be purchased either by a transfer to the charity's bank account as detailed below, giving your name as a reference, or by cheque to our Treasurer, NOT CBNWA, at his address below. Please send an email to our Treasurer, again NOT CBNWA, when making a purchase, giving your name as reference.*



*You will receive details of the ticket numbers when payment is received, although tickets will NOT be issued. Ticket numbers will be used in the draw which will be carried out during the Chairman's Farewell dinner which will be held on the evening of 11th April 2022. Entries must be received by the Treasurer NO LATER than noon on 8th April. If you would prefer to make a (gift aided) donation, please do so.*

*To save time, costs, and handling difficulties the prizes of £100, £50 and £25 will be paid out via direct bank transfer. The winners will be advised by email immediately after the draw. It has been necessary to obtain a Licence from the council for £40 to cover this event!!*

*Your committee hopes that as a member of the charity you will feel able to support this initiative. It is important at this difficult time that we make every effort to continue to raise funds ourselves so that Neighbourhood Watch can continue to serve the community in its current capacity.*

*Good luck and many thanks for your continued support.*

*Treasurer's email address: [aristocat2009@gmail.com](mailto:aristocat2009@gmail.com)*



*Treasurer's postal address: Please email [nhw@cbnwa.com](mailto:nhw@cbnwa.com) if you wish to send a cheque.*

**Charity's Bank Details: Lloyds Bank**

**Account name: CBNWA**

**Sort Code: 30-92-45**

**Account No: 03049348**



*Whilst we are sad to say goodbye to Brian we are pleased to introduce our new Interim Chairman Paul Voden.*

*Paul states: "I have been involved with Neighbourhood Watch for the past six years, first as a coordinator, and then for the past few years on the Executive Committee, and during the last year I have been assisting Brian as Deputy Chairman.*



*Brian, after 12 years in the post as Chairman, will be stepping down at the AGM, but is relinquishing his responsibilities as of the 31st of March, and I have been asked to step in between then and the AGM as interim Chairman.*

*I would like to take the opportunity to thank Brian for his hard work and enthusiasm."*

