

Welcome

Welcome to this special extended summer edition of the Croydon Eye. Due to the ongoing Covid situation, this edition is not being distributed in the normal manner and is only available electronically.

The last couple of months have been unsettling, worrying and difficult for many of us. We have had to learn to adapt to a new way of life and we do not know what the future will bring. However, there have been many inspiring and positive stories of neighbourly support to share. Communities have pulled together and shown kindness and support to those that need it; some neighbours have forged stronger relationships

with each other and other neighbours have formed new friendships. We celebrate and share a selection of positive and uplifting stories in our 'Local Heroes' page.

During lockdown, the police have faced new and different challenges. We are grateful to our local police, many of whom have worked tirelessly throughout lockdown, in turn exposing themselves to the risk of the virus. Some examples of their good work are highlighted in the police report on page 4.

NEWSLETTER OF
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CROYDON

Croydon Eye

SUMMER 2020



The pandemic has generated an ever increasing number of Covid related scams. We have tried to include the latest ones that we should all be aware of. As life slowly returns to normal, we need to remain vigilant and keep ourselves safe.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Your next Croydon Eye will be our winter edition.



#FeelSafeStaySafe

The Croydon Neighbourhood Watch Team

Local heroes

We are all immensely grateful to our milkmen, police, postmen, delivery drivers, teachers, supermarket workers, public transport staff, refuse collectors and of course our wonderful NHS and social care workers who have been working tirelessly during this difficult period in all our lives. So many people have literally put themselves on the line to help their community and keep things going. Many of those who were not key

workers, took the initiative to take action to make sure people were not left without food, medication or a friendly voice. There were notes passed through people's doors offering help; whatsapp groups were set up to make sure people had instant access to help and

information, residents set up food bank collection points in their front gardens; the list goes on. Neighbourly gestures of support however small have all been greatly appreciated. We are proud to share some of these uplifting stories from our Croydon residents overleaf.



Local heroes

Appu and Karthika Dhamodaran Norbury Park

Nominated by Vicky Bruce and many of her neighbours on St Oswald's Road.

Appu and Karthika are the owners of Sara's Stores – a wonderful corner shop in Brickfield Road in the Norbury Park Ward.

Throughout the lockdown, Appu and Karthika went the extra mile to really help their customers and the local community. As well as running their shop as usual, they delivered for free

orders to residents who were housebound and self isolating and they fetched and delivered medicines to isolating residents. They made extra trips to the wholesale warehouse to keep stocks up of food items most in demand and regularly donated items to the local Food Bank. They have made a huge difference to so many people.

Vicky said "They did all of this with cheerful smiles and a kind word for everyone, even though at times, we know they must have been exhausted. Appu and Karthika really are good neighbours and care about their community. To us they are true local Heroes".

Andy the postman South Croydon

Eileen Moss nominated her local postman Andy. Andy delivers to many roads in the Ballards Farm area. Over the last weeks and months he has had a massive round, no help and hundreds of extra parcels and mail. He is always cheerful and ready to help. Well done and thank you Andy!!

Sean Wallace Selsdon and Addington Village

Sean Wallace was nominated by Danielle Exall and other neighbours.

Sean works for Hamid Lakha at the Heathfield Newsagents in Chapel View. He began work for Hamid back in 2012 whilst studying at college. Hamid was happy to give Sean a job to help him boost his confidence and social skills (Sean is on the autistic spectrum). Sean started out by stacking shelves and cleaning up but Hamid soon realised that he was patient and a quick learner, and he offered Sean a permanent job in 2015.

When Hamid felt ill at the beginning of April, Sean told him to go home and rest. Unfortunately, Hamid became very sick with undiagnosed Covid-19 and was not able to return to the shop until June.

During this time, Sean shone! He took over the reins of Shopkeeper/Manager, keeping the shop open every day from 6am until 2pm. He implemented social distancing rules and signs, including notices updating customers on Hamid's recovery. Sean works 7 days a week and has taken no days off since February this year.

When told that he had been nominated as a Local Hero, Sean nearly burst with pride, as too did his family. Sean said that "it is very, very nice and surprising when customers greet me and know my name! And I really enjoy helping Hamid."

Karen Speed Sanderstead

Karen Speed was nominated by her Windings neighbour Cynthia Williams. Karen sent a note offering to help Windings residents back in March and has since helped out her neighbours in numerous ways. In Cynthia's case she helped by taking items to Cynthia's husband who is in a home as well as doing the grocery shopping and getting medication for Cynthia when she needed it. Cynthia has poor mobility due to MS and has really appreciated the support and assistance of her neighbour.

People like Karen who took quick action to make sure those around them were looked after are real local heroes.

Toni Martin Selsdon and Addington Village

Anthony Curzon nominated his neighbour Toni Martin of Abbots Green. At the very beginning of lockdown in March, Toni put a note through everyone's door with her contact details. She offered to do neighbours' shopping, post their mail, phone them for a friendly chat or collect any urgent supplies. A month or so later, Toni posted a small white envelope through everyone's letterboxes.

On the small envelope was written the following:

'Let us fill Abbots Green with Sunshine. The Martins'. On the back was written, 'Sunshine flower seeds.'

Anthony said: "Toni will have made a huge difference too many of those if they had needed her help, so this is the reason I have nominated her, for outstanding kindness to us all in Abbots Green. In these very tough times, it is those like Toni that have made a huge difference to our lives."

Terry Turner Shirley

Terry was nominated by John Wainford. John told us about Terry's teddy bear displays in his front garden in Shirley Way. John said "the fantastic displays of bears in this garden have been bringing a smile to young and old for many weeks."

The Shirley Bears, have their very own Facebook Page 'Shirley Way Bears'. Terry began setting the scenes up in his front garden to cheer up passers-by and children during lock down. He would set up a new bear scene each day in his front garden for

passers-by to enjoy.

Some of the scenes have been spectacular. They have become bigger and more creative as time has gone on; they had their very own Wimbledon tournament, ran a very successful food bank and even did some garden landscaping with a digger. They quickly became a tourist attraction, especially on weekends when families and children came to see what the teddy bears were up to. Terry said the local community has been involved by donating all sorts of things to help create his bear scenes.

Terry said "I have been amazed at the following I have received. From 2 year olds right through to 82 year olds."

Terry set up a Just Giving page to raise money for a children's hospice, Demelza Hospice. So far, he has raised more than £1,800.

The bears are still there if you want to visit and if you would like to contribute, you can do so on the following link: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/terence-turner2



Police report

On the whole, crime in Croydon was down during lockdown. For the month of May, crime was roughly down 40%. There has, however, been an increase in domestic violence; this is up 10%. The other crimes that have seen an increase during lockdown were drugs possession (up 55%) and weapons possession (up 25%). This is likely due to the fact that more police units were available to conduct stop and search.

• **Robbery is down 54%, theft is down 50%** (this may go up as more shops reopen.) Burglary is down 30%. Some wards have seen a big reduction in burglaries, for example burglaries in the

town centre/Fairfield are down 40% and Sanderstead has seen a 60% reduction in burglary. There has, however, been a 9% increase in burglaries in the Norbury and Pollards Hill ward. The reasons for this are currently being investigated.

• **Shed burglaries have increased.** Since lockdown, bicycles are in high demand and there has been an increase in thefts of bikes and onward sales on Gumtree and Facebook Marketplace. The advice is to try and secure sheds as much as possible and keep them locked even when at home.

• **Vehicle crime has seen an increase over the past few months.** In particular, there was a spate of vehicle crime and theft in the Broad Green ward, especially the roads situated close to Croydon

University Hospital. Figures had jumped over lockdown and so police officers started to patrol the area. The incidents of crime have now decreased.

• **There are 2 new sergeants in Croydon,** PS Andy Smith is based in Thornton Heath and PS Gavin Durnell joins the Purley teams.

• **Operation Mankib:** this operation targeting crime in West Croydon and West Croydon train station is still in action and teams continue to arrest people mainly for drugs and weapons offences.

• **The Shirley North SNT has been working to resolve an emerging trend of drug use** on Woodmere Avenue. According to the police, unfortunately the cul-de-sac and proximity to the open space means it is a popular spot for those involved in



drugs. Numerous cannabis warnings have been issued. More significantly a male was found with 8 wraps of cocaine in his vehicle, for which he was arrested and charged. They continue to patrol the areas they know are hotspots for criminality.

• **Thornton Heath: the local SNT conducted regular patrols** with the hospital security team in June after incidents of theft and aggressive behaviour around the hospital. This joint work has been very successful and the team will remain vigilant with patrols continuing.

Proactive patrols around the Thornton Road area were also conducted after reports of Anti Social Behaviour at the mortuary. After suspected drug dealing and intimidation of residents in flats in Thornton Heath, the SNT located a suspect whose dog attacked the officer trying to detain the male. The suspect ran away but after they shared intelligence, he was arrested by British Transport Police and is now facing charges, the dog has been seized. 🐕

Common complaints during lockdown

SPEEDING, NOISE POLLUTION AND BONFIRES

We have received a number of emails complaining about noise from parties, loud music or cars speeding up and down normally quiet residential roads. We have also been informed of an increase in bonfires which can cause a real nuisance to neighbours. Please see the following advice from the police and Croydon Council.



Noise pollution

Croydon Council has the power to deal with noise nuisance that is considered to be a statutory nuisance. If you are suffering from a noise pollution issue, you can report it by contacting the Pollution Enforcement Team Monday to Friday between 9am to 5pm on **020 8760 5483**, and night duty officer on **020 8726 6000** Opt 4. 🐕

Catalytic converter theft

Catalytic converter theft continues to be a problem across the borough. Croydon police have a new operation to deal with this specific crime, **Operation Basswood**. Thieves jack up the cars and are often able to remove the parts very quickly. We have heard of this happening in broad daylight in car parks such as Tesco's Car Park in Purley, Ikea Car Park in Purley Way and in front of people's homes as cars

are parked in driveways on the road. If you see anything suspicious, please call 999 and alert the police. If you are able to safely take any information e.g. number plate of the perpetrator or photos, please email these directly to **Operationbasswood@met.police.uk**

The following cars are more likely to be targeted for catalytic converter theft:

- **Honda Jazz**
- **Toyota Prius**
- **Toyota Auris**
- **Lexus**

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CONVERTER FROM THEFT

- Ask your vehicle dealership if they can give you any advice on locks or guards that are approved by the vehicle manufacturer.
- Try to make sure your vehicle is parked in a garage overnight. If

you have a commercial vehicle, park it in a secure compound. If this isn't possible, park in an area that is well-lit and overlooked and try to park so that the converter can't be easily reached by potential thieves. Vehicles that sit high above the road are particularly vulnerable.

- You should also register your converter and mark it with a forensic marker, which will make it harder for thieves to dispose of. Visit: **securedbydesign.com** for more information. 🐕

Common complaints...



→ Bonfires

- Due to Covid-19; the advice is not to have bonfires or burn garden waste as it may be harmful to people living nearby with breathing difficulties. Instead the council advise to keep your garden waste, compost it or set up a garden waste collection.
- The council can issue legal notices to people having nuisance bonfires. Offenders can be prosecuted and fined up to £5,000 for residential properties and £20,000 for businesses.
- For advice on bonfires and bonfire regulations or to report bonfire nuisance contact the relevant Council team on **020 8760 5483** or **pollution@croydon.gov.uk**



Speeding

The police are aware of a rise in concerns from residents that drivers have not been keeping to the legal speed limits. If you have concerns, please contact your local SNT with the street name and timeframe when the speeding tends to occur. If you do not know your local SNT contact details, please email us on **nhw@cbnwa.com** and we will assist you. 📧

Scams

Scams related to coronavirus continue to evolve and circulate. Please see some examples of common fraud below.

If you think you have been sent a scam message, please report it to Action Fraud.

Please see a recent example and warning of an attempted NHS Track and Trace Scam sent on behalf of Thames Valley Police. The scam took the form of a phone call. The recipient of the call is noted as 'X'

NHS Track and Trace scams

It is important to remember that NHS Test and Trace will **never** ask you for any form of payment or any passwords or PINs. They will also **never** ask you to download anything, ask any details about your bank account or send someone to your home.

Whilst it is possible for criminals to fake official phone numbers, they cannot fake official website addresses. We would encourage anyone with concerns about a phone call, text message or email they have received, in relation to Test and Trace, to check the website address being provided to you carefully. If possible, type the official address, which will be **<https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk>** followed by unique characters given to you, directly into your browser.

“

CALLER: Good morning. I am calling from the NHS Track & Trace Service. According to our system, you are likely to have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. This means that you now need to self-isolate for 7 days and take a Covid-19 test.

X: OK. Can you tell me who that person was?

CALLER: I am not able to do that. That is confidential information.

X: Right.....So?

CALLER: But you do need to be tested within the next 72 hours. So, can I just get the best mailing address so that we can send a kit to you?

X: OK (gives address)

CALLER: Thank you. I just need to take a payment card so that we can finalise this and send the kit to you.

X: Sorry, a payment card? I thought this was all free?

CALLER: No, I am afraid not. There is a one-off fee of £500 for the kit and the test results. Could you read off the long card number for me, please, when you are ready?

X: No, that's not right. This is part of the NHS so there is no charge.

CALLER: I am afraid there is. Can you give me the card number please – this is very important and there are penalties for not complying.

X: puts the phone down.

POLICE ADVICE:

If you should encounter something like this, do not be fooled by it and make sure that your friends and neighbours are aware of it. Dial 1471 to get the caller's number and do feel comfortable to phone the details to the police on 101.

”

UK
CORONAVIRUS
SCAMS



NHS Test and Trace

Contract tracers will **NEVER**:

- ✗ Ask you for any form of payment
- ✗ Ask you for any passwords or PINs
- ✗ Ask any details about your bank account
- ✗ Ask you to download anything
- ✗ Ask you to hand over control of your PC
- ✗ Send someone to your home

For more information, visit
actionfraud.police.uk/testandtrace

OFFICIAL

#coronavirusfrauds

Scams

Online shopping

According to Action Fraud, over 16,000 people have fallen victim to online shopping fraud since the shops closed due to Covid on 23 March. Over £16 million has been lost after items purchased online e.g. PPE equipment like face masks have simply failed to show up.



Holiday Scams

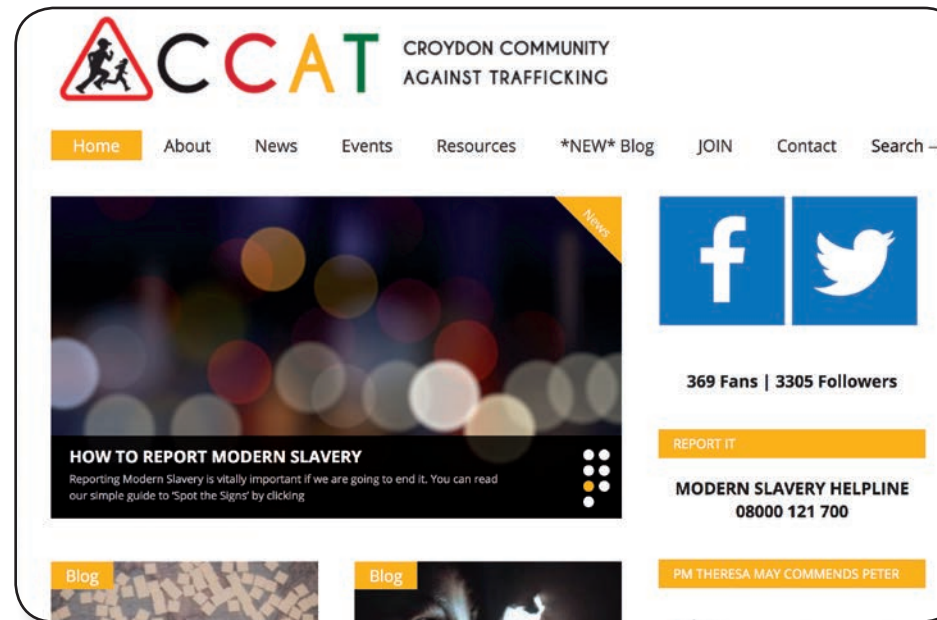
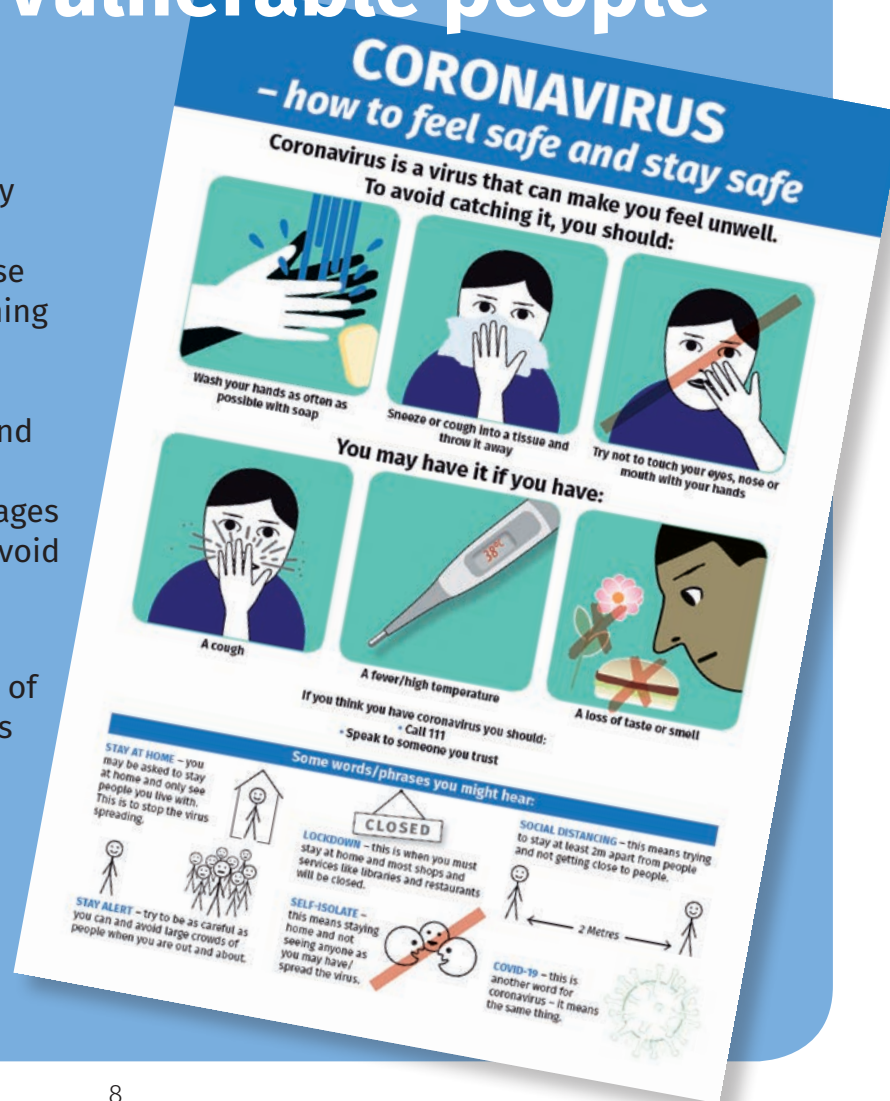
Consumers are being urged to be on the lookout for holiday scams including fake caravan and motorhome listings, refund offers and travel deals, as criminals take advantage of uncertainty around coronavirus travel restrictions and cancellations to target their victims and commit fraud.

Croydon Neighbourhood Watch launches new 'Feel Safe Stay Safe' initiative for vulnerable people

There has been a lot to absorb and process over the past few months which can lead to confusion and anxiety for many people. It can be especially stressful and worrying however for those more vulnerable or for those with learning difficulties. Croydon Neighbourhood Watch has collaborated with CALAT and their Adults with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (ALDD) team to produce a simple flyer summarising the key messages around coronavirus, including how to avoid Covid scams.

The flyer was primarily produced to provide a learning resource for a group of CALAT students with learning difficulties but it is also a very useful resource for carers, key workers and care home managers.

The flyer is free and available to download from our website. www.cbnwa.com



Spotting the Signs of Modern Slavery in Croydon

CLAIRE BONHAM A TRUSTEE OF CROYDON COMMUNITY AGAINST TRAFFICKING (CCAT)

It's easy to think of modern slavery and human trafficking as something that happens in far-away places, or to some other people in the past. Sadly, we know that it is actually much closer than we think, and is happening under our noses in Croydon.

A report by a leading charity in 2018 showed Croydon has the highest number of modern slavery victims of any London Borough.

This is why local organisation Croydon Community Against Trafficking (CCAT) has worked persistently for over 15 years to campaign, educate and raise awareness about human trafficking, oppression, and the enslavement of people, that exists in our own community.

People are coerced into being trafficked into the UK and sold into sexual slavery, domestic servitude, forced labour, working on domestic drug farms, criminality and organ harvesting.

When many people think of slavery or trafficking, they might also assume

that it is people from overseas, for example young women from Vietnam or Albania. The Global Slavery Index estimates there are around 136,000 people being held in slavery in the UK, but the true figure is likely to be much higher than that. And while this is true, modern slavery can affect anyone, from any country including our own. The figures from the last few years indicate that more victims of slavery in the UK are UK citizens than any other nationality.

But if this is happening under our noses, how will we know? And what can we do about it?

There are several common areas in which people are trafficked – working in the sex trade, forced labour and domestic servitude are the most common. In the last few years there has also been a significant rise in so-called 'county lines' drug-trafficking, where vulnerable young people are exploited by being sent out from London to other parts of the country to sell drugs. In most or all of these cases traffickers threaten victims and their families, withhold documents such as passports, keep someone in accommodation without

the means to escape and withhold money that they are owed for their work.

Forced labour often takes place in car washes, nail bars and construction sites, and there are several tell-tale signs.

SOMEONE IN SLAVERY MIGHT:

- appear to be under the control of someone else and reluctant to talk to others
- not be able to move around freely or always be accompanied by someone else
- have few personal belongings, wear the same clothes every day or wear clothes that are not suitable for the work they are doing, e.g. not having proper footwear for working in a car wash
- be fearful of the authorities, or reluctant to talk to strangers
- appear frightened, withdrawn, or show signs of physical or psychological abuse
- dropped off and collected for work always in the same way, especially at unusual times, i.e. very early or late at night
- be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation

WHAT CAN I DO?

If you think that you have spotted any of these signs there is a 24-hour Modern Slavery helpline you can call on **08000 121 700**. Please call this number, if you suspect something amiss, you may well be saving a life by doing so.

If you would like to find out more or book a workshop for your school, place of worship or community group please email us: manager@theccat.com.

If you have a few hours to spare why not consider volunteering with us? We are always on the look-out for people who are passionate about exposing and ending this injustice. Our volunteers help with campaigns, fundraising, education and intelligence gathering on modern slavery in Croydon.

www.theccat.com

FIRST AID AT HOME

Visits to A&E and GPs have dropped sharply due to fear of contagion and adhering to 'stay at home' guidelines. With this in mind, it is worth knowing some basics of first aid in case of injury in the home/garden. We should stress that if you have a serious accident at home or are seriously unwell; you should **always** seek medical help.

The following advice has been obtained from the St John's Ambulance Services website.

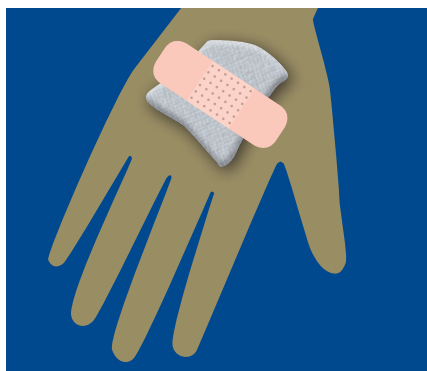
Treating cuts/grazes at home

WHAT TO DO

- + Clean the wound by rinsing it under running water or using sterile wipes.
- + Pat the wound dry using a gauze swab and cover it with sterile gauze. If you don't have these, use a clean, non-fluffy cloth, like a tea towel.
- + For a cut, raise and support the injured part above the level of the heart. Avoid touching the wound.
- + Clean around the wound with soap and water. Make sure you are wiping away from the wound, using a clean swab for each stroke. Pat dry. Remove the cloth or gauze covering the wound and apply a sterile dressing or a large plaster.

SEEK MEDICAL HELP IF:

- + a wound won't stop bleeding
- + a foreign object is embedded in the wound – like a splinter of wood or glass
- + the wound is from a human or animal bite
- + you think the wound might be infected
- + you are unsure whether the casualty has been immunised against tetanus.



Minor burns and scalds to adults

If someone receives a burn or scald, your priority is to cool the burn as quickly as possible. Find out what to look for and what to do.

WHAT ARE BURNS AND SCALDS?

A burn can be caused by dry heat such as contact with fire, or a hot iron, or exposure to the sun. A scald can be caused by contact with wet heat, like steam or a hot cup of tea. The longer the burning

goes on the more severe the injury. Your priority is to cool the burn as quickly as possible.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS TO LOOK FOR

- + red skin and swelling
- + pain in the area of the burn
- + blistering may start to appear

WHAT TO DO

- + Start cooling the burn or scald as quickly as possible. Hold it under cool running water for at least 10 minutes or until the pain feels better.
- + If there is no water

available, you could use cold milk or canned drinks.

- + Remove any jewellery or clothing, unless stuck to the burn, before the area begins to swell.
- + When the burn has cooled, cover the area loosely with cling film, lengthways.
- + Do not wrap the cling film around the burn as the area needs space to swell.
- + If the burn is on a foot or hand you could use a clean plastic bag.
- + Do not use ice, creams or gels. They may cause

damage and increase the risk of infection.

- + Do not break any blisters that may appear, as this may cause infection.
- + Monitor the casualty. Seek medical advice.



Head injuries in adults

All head injuries are potentially serious because they may damage the brain. A head injury may cause damage to the brain tissue, a skull fracture or an injury to the spine or neck. Learn what to do.

MINOR HEAD INJURIES SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Look for:

- + any loss of responsiveness
- + scalp wound
- + dizziness or feeling sick
- + loss of memory of events before or during the injury
- + headache
- + confusion.

WHAT TO DO

If they are responsive, sit the casualty down and hold something cold against

the injury to help reduce the swelling, like an ice pack or a frozen bag of vegetables wrapped in a tea towel.

While you do this, try and assess the casualty's level of response using the AVPU scale:

- A** - Are they alert? Are their eyes open?
- V** - Can they respond to you if you talk to them? Can they answer simple questions?
- P** - Does the casualty respond to pain? If you pinch their ear lobe, do they move or open their eyes?
- U** - Are they unresponsive to all the above? If they are unresponsive or you are worried, call 999 or 112 for emergency help.

If they have any wounds, treat them by applying direct pressure to the wound. Secure with a dressing if needed.

Keep monitoring their level of response.

If they are alert and responsive and have always been so, their head injury is probably mild. You or another responsible adult should wait with them until they recover.



If they're not alert or responsive or they appear to be confused, their head injury could be more serious. Call 999 or 112 for emergency help and explain the cause of the injury and give them details of the casualty's response to the AVPU scale.

If they become unresponsive

at any point, open their airway, check their breathing and prepare to treat someone who's become unresponsive.

If their injury has been caused by a sporting incident, make sure they do not return to the sport until they have been fully assessed by a medical practitioner.

Advise the casualty to seek medical help if the head injury appears to get worse or if any of the following apply:

- + they are over the age of 65
- + they had previous brain surgery
- + they are taking anti-clotting medication
- + they have been taking drugs or drinking alcohol
- + there is no one responsible to look after them.

More first aid advice can be found at www.sja.org.uk




Never miss an email from Croydon Neighbourhood Watch

You are now able to sign up to our email alerts directly by signing up on our website

www.cbnwa.com

Just click subscribe me now.

If you are a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and already receive emails from us directly, you do not need to do anything, you will continue to receive our emails as usual. 

amazonsmile

Amazon Smile and appeal

Covid has had a negative financial impact on many organisations and businesses including the voluntary sector and charities. Croydon Neighbourhood Watch along with every other charity has been unable to hold our usual fundraising events which we rely on to raise much needed funds. If you shop online at Amazon, we would be grateful if you could use the Amazon Smile website

www.smile.amazon.co.uk/

Amazon Smile offers exactly


the same products and services as Amazon; the difference is when you shop, Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of every purchase to your chosen charity. You can select Croydon Neighbourhood Watch as your chosen charity. We are listed on the website as Croydon Borough Neighbourhood Watch Association.

If you would like to make a donation, you can do so either by sending a cheque to The Treasurer, 24 Fernhurst Road, Addiscombe, CR0 7DG.

Or making a bank transfer to CBNWA/Lloyds Bank

Acc. No: 03049348

Sort code: 30 92 45

We appreciate your ongoing support. 

Your Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's details:

CBNWA, Croydon Fire Station, 90 Old Town CR0 1AR