

Dear Member,

31<sup>st</sup> May 2021



*Another month has passed, and it now feels like summer. The bluebells have been lovely, and the trees are getting dressed in their greenery. We are edging towards freedom, but the road may be bumpy. We may need roadside assistance on the way!*

*Selected news items for you:*

## **For Babies and Parents**

Home-Start CHAMS supports young families, now especially including Lockdown babies. 'New Parent Connect': is a term-time group for young parents and their babies meeting Holy Trinity Church Hall, Tilgate, on Tuesday and/or Wednesday from 10:30-12.

'Twiglets' is a term-time group for parents of twins, triplets, or more. We run one in Horsham and one in Crawley. Holy Trinity Church Hall, Tilgate on Thursdays from 10.00 am to 11.45 am.

Our groups are there to offer a safe and fun environment for families to play, meet other parents and receive any help and support they may need. We offer a range of activities for the babies/children and parents to experience...

Volunteers are central to the Home-Start service; we could not offer families the same support without them. We are currently seeking Group Volunteers to help out at our two Crawley Groups; Crawley Twiglets and Crawley New Parents Connect.

## **For Young Children**

Tilgate Park new children's play area is now open – just in time for the half-term holiday. The new play area, which was designed to be as inclusive as possible with accessibility in mind, is a fantastic addition to the park. It boasts 12 pieces of new equipment, including a new basket swing, a swing seat, see-saw, spinner, springers, a large net twister, multiplay units and a wide range of climbing activities for all ages. Crawley Borough Council has reinvested income from within Tilgate Park to create the new play area. For more information on play, visit [our play pages](#).



[Chichester Close playground is to be upgraded very soon.]

**For Young Teenagers** Explorer Scouts may still have spaces for 13.5 to 18 year olds to learn skills for life, while being supported in their personal development. See <https://crawleydistrictscouts.co.uk/> for Joining Form or email [explorers@cdscouts.org.uk](mailto:explorers@cdscouts.org.uk)

**For Young and Old:** Tilgate **Parkrun** will recommence on Saturday 26 June. Junior Parkrun will restart on Sunday 6 June.

The Hawth has re-opened, and so has Crawley Museum.

**For Over 50s:** Community Foundation [@CrawleyTownCF](#) Walking Football session. The Peoples Pensions Stadium, 3G Ballcourt 50+ Friday 12pm - 1pm £3 per session. Email [community@crawleytownfc.com](mailto:community@crawleytownfc.com)

**For Older Adults** no longer working full-time, **u3a** is running demonstrations and displays of its activities on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Crawley Bandstand from 11am-2pm.

**Covid** In Crawley: In the seven days to Monday 24 May there were 12 new cases (11 per 100,000 population). This means on average 2 people are testing positive for COVID-19 each day in Crawley. However, cases are **rising** compared to the previous week.

Vaccines and new variant: Public Health [England@PHE\\_uk](#) New study by PHE shows for the first time that 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective against the B.1.617.2 variant first identified in India. You must have both jabs to gain maximum protection.

As of 27th May, 60,909 individuals have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in Crawley. This is 61.1% of the estimated population aged 16+. This includes vaccinations administered from 8th December 2020 to 23rd May 2021.

The second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine helps to provide longer-term protection. Don't delay in getting your second dose when it is offered to you: <http://nhs.uk/CovidVaccine>

New Government advice sets out that as a precaution people under 40 with no underlying health conditions will be offered an alternative vaccine. Please continue to attend any booked appointments to receive this vital protection. [#MyJob](http://gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-following-jcvi-update)

If you're aged 30 or over, or if you turn 30 before 1 July 2021, you can now book your COVID-19 vaccine.

Testing: Don't spread coronavirus without realising it. Take a free home test and test regularly for Covid-19. Free lateral flow test kits for home use are available from Kamsons chemist in Tilgate, and from the library in the town centre.

If you've been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, or are caring for a child who's self isolating, you may be able to apply for £500. You'll need to be on a low income, unable to work from home and facing financial hardship <https://crawley.gov.uk/coronavirus/su>

**Council Tax:** Are you on a low income or out of work? Apply for help with your Council Tax now. Visit <https://crawley.gov.uk/council-tax-and-benefits/about-council-tax/council-tax-reduction> for more information. Any help is not backdated so apply as soon as possible.

Crawley Borough Council and West Sussex County Council have given an additional Council Tax discount of up to £150 to working age Council Tax reduction claimants. The discretionary discount has been applied to 1,758 households.... These additional Council Tax discounts will support vulnerable working age residents, helping these households to minimise debt and stay housed.

**Crime: Holiday fraud:** After a year like no other, are you desperate to get away for a holiday or short break? Never pay by bank transfer, however desperate you are to get away. You could be waving goodbye to your holiday/flight AND your money. Pay by credit card instead. Read our expert advice on safe getaways and don't become a victim <http://getsafeonline.org/safegetaways>

**Debt Advice:** for free <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/.../chat-service-money-and-debt/>

**Dentist:** NHS England and NHS Improvement:  
If you think you need dental care, contact your dental practice by phone or online to get advice. An appointment will be arranged if needed. Dentists are open, and are prioritising patients according to need. Dial NHS 111 if it's urgent and you can't contact your dentist.

### **Future gigabit-speed internet**

CityFibre is extending its full fibre network to include Crawley. This will bring gigabit-speed internet (that's 1000 megabits per second) to homes, businesses, community spaces and more. Every home and business will be able to get a faster internet connection through a choice of existing or new internet service providers.

CityFibre is building this key infrastructure for Crawley and local contractor Lanes-i is delivering the construction programme on their behalf. Work has started in Ifield, Broadfield and Gossops Green and it is estimated the entire town will be completed by summer 2023.

**Household Waste** Recycling Site trial booking system is to allow more visits per household from 1 June 2021. Read more: <https://westsussex.gov.uk/news/household>

### **Jobs**

The Hawth [@thehawthcrawley](https://twitter.com/thehawthcrawley) We're looking for Apprentices to join our Technical Team and get involved in all aspects of working back stage. Interested? We'd love to hear from you! Click here for more <http://bit.ly/2ZbDZAQ>

Crawley Council: Casual work available!! Are you interested in working school holidays or term time within the Crawley Play Service team? Casual hours are available for the right person! Please contact [Thomas.frances@crawley.gov.uk](mailto:Thomas.frances@crawley.gov.uk) for more information. Crawley Council: We have vacancies from Housing Officer to Digital content Officer, check out our jobs page <http://crawley.gov.uk/vacancies> and start your CBC career!

**Mental health:** Is getting 'back to normal' causing worries? There are lots of ways to make this easier. Visit Every Mind Matters COVID-19 hub for simple tips and advice <https://bit.ly/2OrOSzc>

**Metrobus:** From Monday 17 May 2021 passengers may use all forward-facing seats and side facing seats. These new arrangements have been specifically approved by the government. Other safety measures remain in place. For more details [www.metrobus.co.uk/managing-your-health-and-safety-board](http://www.metrobus.co.uk/managing-your-health-and-safety-board)

*With best wishes to you and yours*

*Sylvia*

*Secretary, Tilgate Forum*