# County Update

# Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans

# Surrey Youth Arts and Culture Festival 2023

# Connect to culture this summer at the Surrey Youth Arts and Culture Festival 2023 across two days in Redhill and Staines-upon-Thames on the 1st and 8th July.  Young people aged 11 - 16 can get the inside track from creative industry experts with live music, workshops and activities with support from organisations such as, University of Creative Arts, University of Surrey, Royal Holloway University London, Amazon Film Studios, Pinewood Group, CCSkills and many more.

# The festivals have been developed by Surrey County Council Libraries and Arts Service, in partnership with local and regional stakeholders, including Spelthorne Borough Council, Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Staines Business Improvement District, the Elmsleigh Shopping Centre Staines-upon-Thames, Harlequin Theatre Redhill, Spelthorne Youth Hub, YMCA and a wide range of cultural and community organisations.

# *To find out more and book free tickets visit:* [*www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/culture/festivals*](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/culture/festivals)

**Learning Disability Week 2023**

Learning Disability Week, which runs from 19th to 25th June, focuses this year on challenging myths about living life with a learning disability and shining a light on the stigma some still face. Mencap’s #Mythbusters campaign aims to showcase the great things that people with learning disabilities can achieve and here in Surrey we’re highlighting a number of our own myth-busters who are breaking down boundaries and doing things their way. They include radio producers Mark, James, Mary and Shay who together produce a radio show which airs on Surrey Hills Community Radio. Dancer Andrew, meanwhile, was featured on the BBC’s Greatest Dancer while Debbie is campaigning for clearer signs in hospitals to help people with learning disabilities find their way around, following her own bad experience. We’re signposting residents to our [Learning Disability and Autism Hub](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/adults/care-and-support/disability/spb/ldpb/learning-disability-week-june-2023) which has the myth-busters’ full stories and details of a programme of activities taking place during Learning Disability week, as well as wider support.

**New kerbside electric vehicle charging trial is now live**

A trial of two new domestic kerbside electric vehicle charging solutions is now live in Surrey. The trial, one of the first in the UK, will allow residents who do not have access to off-street parking to choose from two options – either cable gullies or a [Trojan AON charger](https://trojan.energy/aon-surrey). Both connect to the residents’ domestic energy supply, to allow home charging for EVs without the need for a driveway. *You can read more about the trial* [*here*](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/sustainable-driving/electric-vehicles#section-4)*. Please share with your networks and encourage anyone interested to take part.*

Screening JSNA

This week’s cervical screening awareness week reminds us of the importance of health screening for residents.  A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapter on health screening has just been published, looking at the service in Surrey, potential gaps and inequalities, and offering a set of recommendations/ service development opportunities. The chapter was developed with close collaboration and input from colleagues in the NHS, health partners and voluntary and community-based organisations.

Health screening is offered to large numbers of people (usually based on their age or sex), who do not regard themselves as having the condition being screened for and who may not have sought medical advice. The chapter includes cancer screening (bowel, breast, and cervical cancer screening) and non-cancer screening (abdominal aortic aneurysm screening, diabetic eye screening, and antenatal and newborn screening).

The ongoing health reforms, impact of COVID-19 and subsequent recovery programmes have highlighted the numerous difficulties that NHS and partners face. Recovery work has been undertaken to return coverage and uptake rates back to pre-pandemic levels or higher.

The findings will be used to identify barriers to access, particularly for specific population groups, to support General Practices to improve call/recall systems, and to strengthen screening to treatment pathways.

*For more information, you can read the full* [*JSNA chapter here*](https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/jsna/screening/)

# Be summer ready

With the current heatwave and summer in full swing, we’ve developed a summer hub for residents, with information, help and advice on how to stay safe, keep up-to-date, stay well and keep busy over the summer period. While many people look forward to the hot weather, some of us can find the heat uncomfortable and can experience sunburn, heat stroke and bites. The summer can also bring about water shortages, wildfires, disruptions to travel and financial struggles. Our **#SummerReady** advice pages will help residents prepare for all the outcomes and provide them with a list of events and activities taking place around the county. Residents can also sign up to receive heat-health alerts and flooding alerts. *Please take a look at our* [*summer advice webpages*](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/community/emergency-planning-and-community-safety/summer)

# Solar panel discounts for Surrey residents

Surrey residents can save on their energy bills and cut carbon emissions with a new community led initiative to install solar panels for less. As part of the group-buying ‘Solar Together’ scheme, residents are now able to come together to invest in solar panels and associated battery storage, confident in the knowledge that they are paying the right price for a high-quality installation from pre-approved installers. Residents can find out more and register for free [here](https://solartogether.co.uk/surrey/landing). *More information is available on the* [*Surrey News website*](https://news.surreycc.gov.uk/2023/06/12/surrey-county-council-re-launches-solar-panel-buying-scheme-for-residents/)*.*

**Be Wild Fire Aware**

Wildfires are increasingly becoming an issue in the UK. In 2022 Surrey Fire & Rescue Service attended almost double the number of wildfires than the year before.

They can cause devastation and put lives, homes, wildlife and livelihoods at risk. Last week we worked on a [feature for BBC national news](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-65848872?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo) to help get the prevention messages out there, and showcase the important work of SFRS.

This summer please don't be the reason a wildfire starts.

* Pack a picnic not a disposable BBQ
* Don't smoke on heaths and commons
* Bring all litter home with you

*Please share these* [*important messages*](https://fb.watch/l6--m5aVal/) *from SFRS across social media and with your communities*

# Walkers and cyclists to benefit from more investment in cycling and walking

Following a successful bid to the Department of Transport’s Active Travel Fund, Surrey County Council has been awarded £997,843 to further improve walking and cycling facilities across the county. The investment will see more cycle and walking routes being created and the development of ‘Liveable neighbourhoods’ in some areas. *More information is available on the* [*Surrey News website.*](https://news.surreycc.gov.uk/2023/05/19/boost-for-walking-and-cycling-in-surrey/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo)

**Useful links**

[Planned roadworks](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=647859857382255&set=a.223996593101919) – check out your local area

[Got unused medical equipment?](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=648561933978714&set=a.223996593101919) – See how you can return it

[Meet Mercy](https://twitter.com/SurreyNews/status/1670446368966451202?s=20) - #SocialCareHero

[Money for improvements in your local community](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=648979233936984&set=a.223996593101919) – apply to Your Councillor Community Fund

[#FireSafety in the sun](https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=726041845989223&set=a.579344907325585) – keep mirrors and glass away from window sills

**Lightwater matters**

Grass Cutting – A concern across Surrey not just Lightwater. SCC Cabinet have implemented a task and finish group to look at the issues surrounding the service and at the May Full Council, Leader Cllr Tim Olliver, advised there would be a boost to the number of cuts. More detail to follow once the task and finish group have concluded their work.

Roads – Many of the promised road resurfacing works are now taking place with several more roads scheduled to be done along with white line painting in the village. I am awaiting confirmation on the installation of VAS (vehicle Activated Signs) on Ambleside Road, the posts are in place, but power needs to be supplied prior to ordering the signs themselves.

Home to School Transport - To date two families have had issues with home to school transport to Collingwood College. Both of which have been successfully resolved and transport provided.

ITS (Integrated Travel Scheme) – I have submitted traffic mitigation on Ambleside Road for this years’ ITS. If successful, the Highways team would look at what traffic mitigation would be suitable for the road.

Lightwater Society – continue to meet regularly with Windsor Rackham to discuss ways in which I can support the work being done by the Society.

SHBC – I have agreed to meet with the new Borough Councillors and am awaiting a date from them to catch up.