

In brief

Driver sentenced for hit and run

A DRIVER has been sentenced following a hit and run crash that left a cyclist with fractures to the ribs, sternum, wrist and face.

Gail Pilling, 40, of Kitsmead Lane, Chertsey, appeared at Staines Magistrates' Court on Wednesday after pleading guilty to the offences of failing to stop at the scene of an injury accident and failing to report the accident.

The crash happened on April 12 at the junction of Green Lane and the High Street in Addlestone, with Surrey Police issuing an appeal to find the driver who left the scene.

As well as Pilling's licence being endorsed with 10 points, she was also given a 12 month community order, a 20 day rehabilitation order, and ordered to carry out 160 hours' unpaid work, pay a £60 victim surcharge and £87 in costs.

£1,000 giveaway to fight crime

SURREY'S Police and Crime Commissioner is to give away £1,000 at Spelthorne's next crime summit meeting.

The grant from Kevin Hurley's office and Spelthorne Community Safety Partnership will be given to one of four groups at the meeting at the council offices at Knowle Green on September 22 at 6.30pm.

Decided by a public vote, each group will be given one minute to present its project which should either help or reduce antisocial behaviour, or support victims of anti-social behaviour or crime in the borough.

Mr Hurley, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey, said: "I am delighted to be working with Spelthorne Community Safety Partnership and I look forward to seeing which of these projects wins the public vote and the results of the work that they will do in Spelthorne to make it an even safer place to live, work and study."

A feedback form and short questionnaire regarding priorities for next year's Community Safety Strategy will be given to each attendee at the end of the event.

Completed forms will be exchanged for either a free personal attack alarm with a torch, or a 24 hour timer plug to switch lights on and off.

To register to attend, visit <http://spelthorne-crimesummit.event-brite.co.uk>

# Dance teacher, fish and chips and fire fighters to the rescue

By Candice Ritchie

MORE than 20 elderly residents were treated to a fish and chip meal after being evacuated from their sheltered housing block in Sunbury when a fire broke out on Wednesday morning.

The blaze happened at Beechwood Court, in Churchill Way, shortly before 10.30am when a tumble dryer overheated and caught alight in the laundry room.

Six fire engines from Staines, Sunbury, Esher, Painshill, Egham and Chertsey were called to the incident, along with an aerial ladder platform from Guildford fire station.

Dance teacher Kelli Dixon, who leases Churchill Hall for classes, was working when she saw the elderly residents outside and invited them in.

She said: "We're closed until Saturday for the summer break, but I came by to do some admin work. I turned up and there were four fire engines, so I couldn't park."

"I came in to get my things and went straight over to [Beechwood Court manager] Nigel [Frost]. I couldn't leave the place and see them [the elderly people] on the pavement."

"They were all outside with their wheelchairs and walkers and I let them all come in. It was very smoky in there, people were struggling to breathe."



Dance teacher Kelli Dixon gave the residents shelter and tea at the hall while firefighters tackled the blaze at Beechwood Court in Sunbury



"I rang my mum and husband straight away and they came with milk and tea. It was lucky, I feel like I was meant to be here today. My nan lived in there, so I feel like she made me come here."

Mrs Dixon said the Red Cross charity also turned up to provide assistance, and as well as essentials like tea and coffee along with a camper-van in case residents wanted to watch television.

They were also bought fish and chips by the care home to enjoy for lunch.

Resident Monica Letts said: "I didn't smell smoke but my husband did, it was frightening. Nigel came

round and told us quite early on. It was good that they told us what was happening."

"A test alarm went off this morning, they do one every Wednesday. But the fire alarm went on and on, so we thought 'oh no!'"

Her husband, Ralph, added: "It's our anniversary today so the fire service bought in flowers for me to give to Monica."

Alan Grant, fire investigation manager at Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, said the evacuation was in process when they arrived.

"Fire crews went to extinguish the fire and assisted in a 'phased evacuation' - the people nearest the area first

and then a full evacuation," he said.

"It was a small fire in a commercial tumble dryer, but the room was heavily smoke logged. Clothes within the tumble dryer overheated."

Mr Grant added that crews extinguished the blaze using on-site fire extinguishers and a hose reel, along with six breathing apparatus kits.

"The staff did very well and the firefighters worked extremely hard, so credit to them," he added.

"I would remind anybody not to leave appliances on in the home unattended or overnight. If you're going out it's always good practice to

open the doors and let the heat out."

Luckily no-one was injured in the fire, but further investigation is to be carried out to establish how the defect occurred.

Mr Frost, manager of the buildings which are owned by A2Dominion, said: "There was steam and smoke in the laundry room, which set the steam alarm off and the fire service was summoned."

"I attempted to do it [put the fire out] with the fire extinguisher but it was getting out of control."

"The fire service and the Red Cross did a great job, and thanks to Kelli for opening up the village hall."



Picture: Darren Pepe RS155366

Green Corridor representatives and youths have joined to create the artwork - the project is aiming to bring together vulnerable young people by creating a huge public mural.

## Mural adds colour to the community

A YOUTH charity has been adding colour to the lives of vulnerable young people by creating a piece of art.

Green Corridor coordinated Add Colour to Lives art project alongside street artist Joel Bergner to bring together vulnerable youngsters from communities across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Arriving in London last week, the team worked together at a barn on the outskirts of Heathrow Airport to explore social issues that are important to them, culminating in the design and painting of a large scale public mural to celebrate the posi-

tives in disaffected youth.

The artwork was unveiled on Friday in a celebration with Joel, the youths, their family members, Green Corridor representatives, and team members from the Park Inn by Radisson.

Jean Rolfe, director of Green Corridor UK, said: "It's been an amazing, breathtaking and truly colourful experience - thank you so very much."

The participants spent the week developing and creating the piece of art to express and communicate their hopes, dreams, opinions, and feelings to the wider world.

The artwork will be transferred to the Park Inn by Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre in Heathrow, where it will be displayed for guests and visitors, before a more permanent home is found.

Neil Muir, general manager of Park Inn by Radisson London Heathrow, said: "Getting to know about the local culture and ideas of the cities in which we work is important to us."

"Young people, who have had a difficult start to life, are being engaged to create some positive and awe-inspiring work on the walls of the cities where they live."

## Support for national refugee relief

RUNNYMEDE Borough Council has pledged to 'support the national effort' to resettle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees.

The borough made the announcement following David Cameron's pledge on Monday that Britain would take 'thousands more refugees' over the next five years.

The Prime Minister made the statement after an image of three-year-old Syrian toddler Aylan Kurdi, washed up dead on a Turkish beach, was circulated by the national media.

A spokesman for Runnymede Borough Council said: "We are sympathetic to the plight of

refugees and will support the national effort led by central government to help successfully settle the most vulnerable."

"We are awaiting more information from government on how any scheme for resettling Syrian refugees will be run, once further information is provided we will have a clearer idea about what is needed in terms of local support. We will work with other Surrey authorities to ensure there is a consistent approach."

The picture of Aylan Kurdi, which was carried prominently by many national newspapers, sparked a petition calling on the

government to do more to assist the refugee crisis, which has been signed by nearly 450,000 people.

Spelthorne Borough Council said it recognises councils are likely to have an important role to play in supporting the national effort to provide re-settlement for the most vulnerable refugees.

"However, until we get more detail on what may be required of us as a local council, it is very difficult to speculate about our response," a spokesman said.

"We will be seeking clarification in the coming weeks and liaising closely with the county council and other relevant partner agencies."

More than four million Syrian refugees have fled their home country as conflict involving the ruling Assad regime and Islamic State continues to rage.

Upon reaching European shores many refugees have travelled to Germany, which has taken the lead among EU member states co-ordinating a response.

Mr Cameron said: "We are proposing Britain should re-settle up to 20,000 Syrian refugees over the rest of this Parliament. In doing so, we will continue to show the world that this country is a country of extraordinary compassion, always standing up for our values and helping

those in need.

"We will continue with our approach of taking refugees from the camps and elsewhere in Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon."

"This provides refugees a more direct and safe route to the UK, rather than risking the hazardous journey to Europe which has tragically cost so many lives."

## Police linking burglaries

THOUSANDS of pounds of jewellery, cash and two laptops have been stolen from two homes in Surrey.

The rear patio doors of a house in Pooley Green Road, Egham, were forced open between 3.20pm and 5pm on Wednesday last week.

Surrey Police said two gold necklaces, a pair of earrings, large amounts of cash, including foreign currency and two laptops were stolen.

An Asian man in his 20s to 30s was seen in the area at the time of the burglary.

He is described as 5ft 11m tall, of slim build, with wavy black hair and was wearing a white T-shirt.

Officers have linked the incident with another burglary in Avenue Road, Staines, the next day when thieves smashed a rear glass door between 4.50pm and 9.45pm.

A large quantity of jewellery and cash, was stolen.

Sergeant Sarah White said they believed the thefts to be linked: "Both occurred either mid-afternoon or early evening so there would have

been people around at the time who may have seen something suspicious but have not yet thought to report it to police. We are appealing to anyone with information to come forward as soon as possible."

Anyone with information can phone police on 101, quoting reference number 45150079192 (Pooley Green Road) or 45150079551 (Avenue Road) or by online reporting system at <https://my.surrey.police.uk/splonlinereportingweb>.

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