

A DIFFERENT KIND OF TEAM NEWS

MAY 2020

CORONAVIRUS CONFUSIONS



You will no doubt have realised that last month's edition stood no chance of keeping up with the dizzying speed of developments. In the end a decision was made not to try and undo all the reports that contained publicity about activities and events that would clearly no longer be able to take place. Our production window is narrow enough at the best of times, but the onrush of successive government announcements became totally overwhelming. We apologise that many attempted post-deadline cancellations and other adjustments went unanswered and unactioned in all the turmoil, and hope you will understand why.

THIS MONTH'S TEAM NEWS

I have been asked by the *Team News* editorial team to share with both our loyal readers and advertisers how we will deal with publication of *Team News* whilst Creeds are unable to prepare and print our usual paper copies. Thanks to Brian Earl and Harry Neary who have the technical skills and abilities, we are able to prepare and place on the Beaminster Area Team website a slightly different, in appearance, copy and we hope that village editors will continue to supply monthly copy, letting us know how things are going in their part of the area covered by the *Team News*. We will continue to include all the adverts already paid for and we are able to take new adverts from anyone who would like to send them in.

We are also working out the best way to compensate readers and advertisers for the months' copies that are lost and we will make a statement on this in next month's edition. I would like to say a big thank you to all the village editors and all those who deliver the magazine each month and I know that you look forward to when you can do this again. Thank you also to our editorial team for their time given freely, Harry Neary for his support, and to Creeds for the wonderful service we receive from them. We are aware that not everyone has access to online facilities and it may be that you could print off a copy and let them have it or you could give them a call and read it to them.

David Baldwin

WHAT'S NEW?

Well, as you no doubt noticed, your traditional front cover has disappeared for a start. Though we cannot know what kind of device you have in front of you, the whole magazine has been redesigned to suit scrolling down a landscape-shaped screen instead of flicking through portrait-shaped printed pages. The normal sequence of sections has been abandoned for the time being too. In fact, it might be better to forget that you ever *had* a printed version before!

As for the content, we were hoping to be able to offer you a short-lived antidote to coronavirus, but it hasn't really worked out that way. On reflection, it would have been a little unnatural since it is currently dominating our lives. You'll find, however, that there are more feature-type articles to compensate for the reduced volume of traditional news items, and the 250-word rule has been temporarily relaxed.

Please note too that, paid adverts apart, no attempt has been made to reproduce relatively static elements of the printed magazine. If you feel an urge to consult regular activities, venues for hire, and the like (though there seems little point at the moment), they are deliberately absent. We have also limited to a bare minimum, and then only by consent, the details of how to contact various people. We recommend that you hang on to a previous printed issue so you have that sort of information to hand if you need it.

We hope you will find the magazine no less interesting than usual, even if not necessarily what you were expecting.



TEAM TALK

THE RECTOR WRITES...

Over the past few months we have witnessed on our TV screens human pain and suffering on an unprecedented scale in many places in the world through the Corona Covid-19 virus. Old and young alike have been affected and in conversations I have had with various people I have been asked the toughest of all questions we face when talking about faith: where is God in the midst of all this pain and suffering? Why has God allowed it to happen?

When we talk about God and our relationship with him we refer to God as an all-loving and all-powerful being who wants to be actively involved in all our lives and wants to share in life's highs and lows, joys and fears. We talk about wanting God to come and take control of our lives so that he can lead us into a life of hope and joy, which is pain-free and where all have value and equal status. Except that this doesn't appear to be happening and instead of our world becoming a better place, exploitation and injustice, pain and suffering seem to be increasing. How can this be happening and why does God allow it?

Some people would suggest that God is a distant being, sitting up on a cloud somewhere looking down on us and keeping a record of the things that we do and then he acts accordingly whether that's to bless us or punish us. But this understanding makes God a distant and otherworldly being who doesn't have any care or compassion for us and just acts in an arbitrary and whimsical way, and it means that in order for us to please God we have to do all we can to appease him. He is an angry God who demands our respect and our worship and then he will bless us. But why would anyone worship a God who causes pain, suffering and destruction?

With the coming of Jesus this entire view is turned on its head because God is no longer a distant being but someone who lives amongst us. Jesus demonstrates that God knows what it means to love and be loved, to feel rejection, to feel pain, and Jesus' teaching and ministry is all about offering care and compassion to others. Jesus in his ministry shows that God wants to be alongside people in their needs and he wants to share the burdens that people have to deal with. The care and compassion that Jesus offers seeks to overcome the pain and suffering that people experience and he actively encourages his followers to copy him.

Of course this doesn't answer the question why God doesn't choose to act when people suffer in the world today and we are all left wondering whether God is as powerful as we believe. We can respond by saying that it's all down to freewill and that God cannot influence the way we think or act except by example, but that doesn't answer the question about world pandemic illness.

The only conclusion that I can come up with is that pain and suffering is outside the control of God and that there is nothing that can be done to prevent it occurring. This makes sense in the light of how creation is brought into being according to Genesis. In the Old Testament the people believed that God was in a constant struggle between order and chaos: order being everything that God had created and chaos being those things yet to be controlled. Water and deep were always the metaphor used for chaos and in Genesis God's spirit moves over the face of the deep water. God brings order out of that chaos and the water is gathered together in one place but chaos still remains, and according to Revelation remains until there is no more sea. So although it is painful for us to comprehend, chaos demonstrated in pain and suffering caused by illness would be understood in biblical terms as chaos fighting against God's perfect order.

How can we respond to this? It is very hard for us to ever accept that pain and suffering cannot be controlled by God and that if God's creation is perfect why does it still exist? The hope we can cling on to is that God is not distant from us and knows what we are going through. He has experienced pain and suffering that we encounter, and that he wants nothing more than to take it from us. He is alongside us as we suffer and the pain that we feel wrings in the heart of God. God has set us an example though in Jesus and if we learn from that example and offer care and compassion in the way in which Jesus did we can at least play our part in taking some of the pain and suffering that we cause out of our world.

Let's seek to find the hope and the life that Jesus offers, and let's make the control that we have on life as God-focused and pain-free as possible.

David Baldwin, your Team Rector, Parish priest and friend

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

All weddings and baptisms are presently suspended. Sadly the wedding reported last month on 28 March has had to be rescheduled for the autumn, and the two weddings for April have similarly been held over.

The Departed : *'I am the resurrection and the life'*

March 3	Brian BRICE	Beaminster
March 9	Beryl MAW	Beaminster
March 10	David GROVES	Beaminster
March 25	Maurice BULLOCK	Bridport
March 28	Sheila VICKERY	Beaminster
April 5	Eric GIBSON	Beaminster/Netherbury
April 9	Eric WHITTLE	Beaminster
April 11	Don JOLLIFFE	Beaminster
April 19	John SPOONER	Beaminster

THANK YOU

Thank you is a word so often used lightly but I do use it now as a sincere and heartfelt expression of how so many of us really feel at this time. It goes without saying that we will be eternally grateful to all those who work in health care, whether in hospitals, care homes or in people's homes in the community. But as a member of the communities which the Beaminster Area Team covers I am sure I express on behalf of us all how thankful we are to all the village and town networks that have sprung into action, with almost military-style precision, providing care and support to those who are isolated and vulnerable. I would also like to thank all the shops and businesses across the area for the outstanding levels of service they are providing each day ensuring that nobody has gone without essential supplies.

I would also like to thank all of our church members for the support that they are giving to myself, Jo and Fiona, not only in keeping an eye on our closed buildings but also for keeping each other in touch and for ensuring that we are updated on anyone who is ill or in need of prayer. Please check the Team website for daily updates, aids to prayer, reflection and worship. But please do not hesitate to call me if you require immediate pastoral support.

I hope that by the time the June *Team News* is prepared we will be beginning to see a new light at the end of a long, winding lane. One of my favourite verses from the psalmist says just that "Heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning". We do indeed look forward to the joy of that new light of dawn.

David Baldwin,

VIRTUAL WORSHIP PLATFORMS

Thank you to all of those who have joined us on our virtual worship platforms: through the website, Zoom and Facebook live. I hope you are finding what we are providing useful. We have had some interesting feedback. Hymns and music have been a hit, some would prefer a choir though to sing along with. Sadly, a choir is beyond our capability at the moment – but if you search on YouTube for your favourite hymns there will no doubt be some beautiful cathedral choirs to listen to.

You have enjoyed having other voices involved, so we will continue to try to involve multiple worship leaders in our services. Our sermons have evolved into short reflections, a *Thought for the Day*-style homily seems more appropriate for a recorded service. I know some people have enjoyed having sermons written to read; others prefer listening. Rev Chat is our discussion-based reflection on the Gospel for the week – so that provides another way of engaging with the text.

We have only used Facebook live once so far – for Easter morning. We were amazed that so many joined to watch. We are considering how we can use this resource again in the future. We are aware that not all our regular congregations have access to the internet. Some we have spoken to already have resources at home to use and are used to tuning into Radio 4 for the Sunday service. Others might appreciate a phone call from you to keep them up to date with church and village news and to pray with them.

Jo Neary, revneary@gmail.com

THE COMMUNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Our prayer community continues to meet on Thursday evenings at 7.00pm and Saturday mornings at 9.00am via Zoom. If you would like an invite to join us please email me. All are welcome, but in order to keep our Zoom connection secure you need a link to join the meeting.

Jo Neary

LEARNING FROM LOCKDOWN

I would love to hear stories about how your faith has grown or been challenged during this lockdown time. Perhaps you have found some great resources online that you could share with others? Perhaps you are struggling to see how the church can remain relevant and useful at the moment? I know many have had strong views about the church buildings being shut. We would love to hear stories and suggestions which we can share with each other to encourage and promote discussion. Send me an email and I can include your ideas in future acts of worship.

What has been exciting is how much people who don't usually come to Sunday worship have been able to engage with worship during lockdown. This has implications for what we continue to do once church buildings are open again. It is great to offer regular worship for those who are no longer able to access our church buildings and also provide resources for people who are exploring faith. We look forward to exploring how online church will develop in the future and how we can embrace digital mission opportunities.

Jo Neary

FUTURE EVENTS

Plans for Thy Kingdom Come in May, Pentecost, Prayer Spaces in Schools in June, Messy Church and our summer holiday projects are all currently on pause. Some things can happen virtually – and we are working together to make that happen. Other things will be rescheduled when we have more clarity about lockdown length and some events will just have to wait until next year. Do please pray for our communities and particularly our connections to children and young people in this time of lockdown.

Jo Neary

BEAMINSTER

THE LIVING CHURCHYARD

You have patiently remained with me through the wet winter months. Now the weather has cheered – what beautiful Easter weather! – and we are housebound, unable to go out.

Both Jim and Joan are incapacitated, so we are desperate for more helpers. One thing is for sure, by helping in the churchyard you will find it so satisfying. Thursday morning, 10.00am, then a friendly coffee break. Just turn up, armed with a hand fork and kneeler! You will be made most welcome. You can even choose your own patch. Do join us!

Our spring display has been glorious. We now await the bluebells to round it off. With a few hours to spare, Keith and Ing-Marie have attacked the bed near the lift. What a change! By clearing an overcrowding shrub they've let the light in. Well done, them! Whose grave have they found?

There are many places of tranquility and calm to sit in your churchyard. With no traffic at the moment the air is full of birdsong. Relax and enjoy!

Joan Moverley

DERRY THOMPSON R.I.P.

The senior members of Beaminster church may remember the old Hele organ, which was maintained and regularly tuned by Derry Thompson, organ builder of St Andrew's Road, Bridport. I was very sad to hear that Derry died, in Dorchester Hospital, on April 1. He had suffered poor health for some time.

He was an excellent builder: the organs he made had beautiful tone. I got to know him well, as I often used to go round with him on his tuning visits, to hold the keys down, and he was always amiable, interesting and good company. I learned things from him about pipe organs and got to play instruments I would otherwise never have seen. In return for my help, Derry always treated me to lunch, and it was always steak pies. Lovely! Vale, Derry!

Jeffery Fraser

BEAMINSTER CHURCH BOOKINGS

Please note that my phone number was shown incorrectly in last month's magazine. To book St Mary's Church, please call me on 01308 861686.

Judith Hansen

BEAMINSTER RAMBLERS



Sadly, the ramble around Chideock followed by lunch plus AGM at The George scheduled for March 17 all had to be cancelled at the last minute due to the UK Government directive on social distancing because of the current coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic. All future organised walks are suspended until further notice but many club members are venturing out alone or with occupants of their own households as permitted exercise during lockdown. The weather at the moment is very favourable and the ground mainly dry and firm so with all the varied signs of spring to see, hear and smell we are indeed more fortunate here in the Beaminster Team environs than in many other areas of the UK.

Info from Yarn Barton or secretary Eleanor Moore 01308 863955, email eleanor_1_moore@hotmail.com or www.beaminsterramblers.com.

Ruth Earl

THE BEAMINSTER SOCIETY

It will come as no surprise that the Annual General Meeting of the Beaminster Society has been postponed due to the Coronavirus restrictions - together with a myriad of other events that have tumbled off the calendar. The publication of the spring edition of our magazine has also been deferred until the autumn, when normal life might be resumed.

We shall then conclude our reporting of the Government's *Landscapes Review* on our National Parks and Areas of Outstanding National Beauty (AONBs). The 168-page report supports greater protection of our treasured landscapes and argues for a simpler designation of these areas as our *National Landscapes* and greater powers to protect them from development. These landscapes can help us respond to climate change, can protect biodiversity and threatened wildlife, and in a broader sense contribute to everyone's wellbeing by providing space to wander in nature.

The report says that the purpose of "AONBs should be strengthened with increased funding, governance reform, new shared purposes with National Parks and a greater voice on development."

The Dorset and East Devon AONBs have been singled out, along with the Cotswolds, to potentially become new National Parks. Having initially thought that the authors of this Report would make a firm decision on this issue, we find that Natural England will now make this decision.

Further information on The Beaminster Society is on our website www.beaminstersociety.org which has details of how to join the society and how to renew your subscription.

Philip Golding, Chairman

BEAMINSTER FESTIVAL

It will come as no surprise that the 2020 Beaminster Festival has had to be cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The decision of the trustees was fortunately made before the brochure was printed and sponsors, donors and artists alike have been extremely kind and helpful, thus allowing us to hope for a wonderful Festival in 2021. The cancellation was particularly disappointing as it was our 25th Anniversary.

If you have access to the internet there are innumerable recordings of concerts, operas and plays so there is certainly no dearth of culture online. In addition many of our artists are producing little entertainments in their own homes.

You might like to see what the Kanneh-Masons get up to in their enforced time back at home:

www.facebook.com/IsataKMOOfficial

Elena Urioste and her husband, our old friend Tom Poster, are having fun devising daily concerts ranging from Bach to Michael Jackson: [#UriPosteJukeBox](https://www.facebook.com/UriPosteJukeBox)

Morgan Szymanski our regular guitarist is busy teaching children in Mexico and offering online guitar and ukelele lessons, as you can see in the picture:

<https://www.facebook.com/morgan.szymanski>

or Instagram @prisma_mexico



We wish all our audience, our volunteers and our performers a peaceful, safe and healthy summer.

Lois Pearson, Artistic Director

BEAMINSTER CHURCH ECO REPORT

What a huge change in our circumstances we have been facing and having to adapt to! The Corona pandemic has left its stamp on all levels of society, both developing and rich western countries causing huge loss of life and economic crises.

But against all that is bad and negative some good is emerging. The reduction in travel particularly by flying and cruising has had a huge impact by reducing our carbon footprint. We all, both humans and created beings of land, sea and sky, will benefit. Our planet Earth must be rejoicing in relief of the threats overhanging it.

We are all finding a new way to live with less stuff, using our supplies wisely, diminishing food waste, etc. Our gardens are reaping the benefits of hours of attention and care. The bees are busy pollinating and birds can be heard more easily with loss of traffic noise. The Spring flowers have been a riot of colour in the glorious sunny weather!

We have discovered ways of caring for each other, the isolated, lonely, elderly, housebound. The Town Council, Food Bank and local shops have done sterling work trying to make sure everyone in need has some food and their medications supplied.



Sow all the vegetable seeds you can this year!

Look thankfully at the flowers & birds around you!

Thank God for the beauty surrounding Beaminster!

Thank God for those in government, NHS and many others who are caring for our well-being.

Gillian Perrott

TOLLERFORD PRACTICE

In an effort to contain and delay the spread of coronavirus, we have made some changes at The Tollerford Practice.

- If you need an appointment, please complete an eConsult form, which you can find a link for on our website's homepage. You will be able to request information or contact from one of our clinicians.
- We are not currently booking any routine GP appointments.
- If you do not have access to the internet or cannot access eConsult, please call the surgery on 01308 861800 to book urgent appointments or to speak to reception regarding other matters.
- If you have an appointment booked, please come to the reception to let them know you have arrived. The receptionist will ask you if you have any symptoms of coronavirus and you will then be asked to wait in your vehicle or, if you have walked, at a distance from the door. The clinician will then come and get you and show you into the surgery.
- Prescription collection is only available between 9.00-10:30am & 4.30-6.00pm.

Please be aware that these changes have been made to delay the spread of coronavirus and we appreciate all co-operation with these new measures.

Ruby Neville

BEAMINSTER TEAM WINS NETHERBURY CUP

It was not supposed to be the end of the short mat bowls season but it may well turn out to have been, so it was highly appropriate that all four of our area clubs got together for the annual Netherbury Cup, this year in South Perrott, just before the lockdown in March.

League form was turned on its head in the competition, in which two triple teams from each club play their opposite numbers from the other three. Beaminster, who had been having a dismal season at the bottom of the league, earned their moment in the spotlight with a comfortable victory, beating all three of their opponents. Their shining stars were Geoff and Di Neal and Julie Bright who won all three of their games while Neil and Monica Hammond and Mags Bowen won two of their three. Beaminster finished with a score of plus 16 shots, eight more than hosts South Perrott. South Perrott had a strong finish with Margaret Banham, Doreen Lean and Jane Allen winning their final game 13-0 against Toller, the best score of the day, but it was not enough as the hosts' team had narrowly lost their first two matches. Netherbury, the defending champions and league leaders, finished third equal with Toller on minus 12 shots.



The South Perrott hosts provided an excellent meal enjoyed by players from all four clubs as they said their au revoirs to each other since it may be some time before they are meeting again in their respective village halls.

Paul Radford

BEAMINSTER AREA SENIORS

Of course, due to the dreaded virus, everything had to be cancelled. Main thing is you all are keeping well and not too bored. It is good to have good memories, hope and smile, smile is love.

Use your incredible memory for pleasure. Even if you tend to be forgetful, it does not matter. Your memory stores so much information. Pull out some old photos, listen to music, think of some family parties, Christmas gatherings! You find it all comes back. And keep moving, do it, do it badly, awkwardly, anxiously, do it briefly, but do it and focus the mind, which can increase healing by 50 percent! You can exercise while sitting, move your legs, circle them, march them up and down, toe heel, try to think back to what we used to do at Fit4T, swing those arms, make your fingers touch the thumb in turn, circle your hands and keep smiling! You see, it all comes back.

When the dust settles, we will realise how very little we need, how very much we actually have, and the true value of human connection. Take care!

Annemarie Bishop-Spangenberg

BEAMINSTER MUSEUM

Man with gun in museum! Don't panic, Mr Mainwaring!

As part of the museum's outreach to local schools, we were pleased to welcome a class from St Mary's Academy in February to assist in their study of the Second World War. The museum displays the uniform of the secret Auxiliary Unit named the Meerhay Patrol, with the purpose of sabotage and guerrilla warfare to disrupt invaders who ventured this way. Our visitor with the gun has a special interest in the Unit, and was able to capture the youngsters' imagination talking about life at the time.

With the VE Day Bank Holiday in May, it would be an opportunity for older readers to talk with younger generations of their experience of war, how WW11 affected their lives, or the lives of their parents. VE Day in 1945 Beaminster saw the church bells ringing out, the Silver Band played in the Square, and a hastily arranged dance held in the evening. What will the current generation do to mark the end of the pandemic locally?

Just as many of us are feeling fearful in the light of the coronavirus pandemic, so it was in the war, not knowing what lay ahead. Over the holiday, why not read the article written in 2005 by Jenny Cuthbert, then Collections Curator, in *Dorset Life*: www.dorsetlife.co.uk/2005/05/beaminster-at-war? It gives readers the flavour of wartime in local life.

Unfortunately, we are not yet able to open.

Bid Wheeler



BEAMINSTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



There is little I can say about any of our activities as, thanks to our foe the coronavirus, we have had to cancel everything up until the end of June and possibly even further ahead. By keeping positive we can only hope our freedom will return and we can continue with our pre-planned programme as on your membership card. Needless to say that our next possible meeting will be our Annual Show on August 8 so let's hope you have all done some preparation for that and pray it will happen. Who knows at this stage? Our trip to Holme Gardens on July 19 may well have to be postponed but hope springs eternal and with everything crossed we will all stay well, keep gardening, and ready to bounce back into action when the time comes.

Today, Good Friday, I received some very sad news from Bill Martin that Eric Whittle has died. Unfortunately, he had a fall in his garden and ended up in hospital where a bang on the head led to internal bleeding and consequently pneumonia took over and he eventually passed away. He was always such a cheery 92-year-old, and in the past an excellent chairman of our society. Our thoughts go to his wife Christine who I'm sure will be lost without him; they were such a lovely couple.

Celia Rus

THANK YOU!

Recently I accidentally dropped my keys into a road drain near the Post Office in Beaminster. In less than a minute there were half a dozen people around me offering help and advice. A young lady obtained a metal rod from somewhere – and so between them they 'rescued' the keys. I am so grateful to them.

Roy Pawley

THE MEETING PLACE – ZOOM SERVICES

As a home-based church normally meeting every Sunday morning in homes in and around Beaminster, we are currently meeting by Zoom. You are most welcome to join us for a Sunday service together at 10.00am.

If you would like to join us, please email Malc at getintouch@meetingplacechurch.co.uk. For further information please go to our website www.meetingplacechurch.co.uk.

Norma Roberts

PARNHAM VOICES IN SELF-ISOLATION



Many members of Parnham Voices, the Beaminster-based *cappella* choir, have been friends and singing companions for the best part of 20 years, so when the call came from the government to self-isolate it came as a shock. What were we to do on a Monday evening? How could we spend weeks or even months not singing with each other? Enter Zoom, the video conferencing app! Now between eight and ten of us meet online every Monday and sing three songs together chosen by one of the members the week before. It is challenging as there is a time lag, but it has taught us to listen

to each other, which is something that we have never managed to do before under any Musical Director's instructions.

All our planned concerts were cancelled and our much anticipated all day Come and Sing, where we meet singing friends from other parts of the country, was also cancelled. It should have been held on Saturday 18 April. I should have realised that it might not take place as, when I checked my diary the other day, I had inadvertently typed in 'Come and *Sung*'.

None of us knows what the future holds, and this situation could continue for a while, but we have hopes of singing together and putting together a new programme of concerts soon, to which we hope you will come. In the meantime, we will continue to sing in our homes but still making it a shared experience until we can physically meet up and start actual rehearsals.

We have vacancies for tenors and basses, so if you can sight-read and hold a line (in tune) then consider Parnham Voices as a possible Monday outing once lockdown comes to an end. We are a happy, friendly group who care about each other: www.facebook.com/parnhamvoicesnews/ and <https://parnhamvoices.wordpress.com/>

Stay safe and look forward!

Sue Dymock

BEAMINSTER WI

As all members know, the Beaminster WI meeting for April was cancelled at a time when coronavirus was taking its hold on the country. Lesley's wonderful book on the history of Beaminster WI reminds us that the meeting was cancelled in January 1963 because of the great snow that paralysed Beaminster for a time. Meetings were held in different venues during World War 2 as the US Army used the Public Hall. Some meetings were held at Miss Hallet's house in White Hart Street (now Hogshill Street) and subsequently in the Tindall Hall, a wooden building behind the Public Hall and now part of the car park.

We will tell you all when monthly meetings can start again, almost certainly *not* in May. In the meantime at least one reading group has had a meeting on Zoom.

Bea, Charlotte, Ruth and I hope you all enjoyed the mini-newsletter that you were sent online at Easter. Phyllis took it upon herself to make and deliver birthday posies to all our ladies having birthdays in April. They seemed to be much appreciated. Members are keeping in touch with each other mostly by phone and email. Three ladies have a glass of wine together at 6.00pm using Skype. If you would like a member to ring you occasionally there are Telephone Buddies ready and waiting to call you. If you do, ring me on 01308 862237. Thank you Telephone Buddies.

We wish you all well until we meet again.

Cherry Armstrong

1ST BEAMINSTER SCOUT GROUP

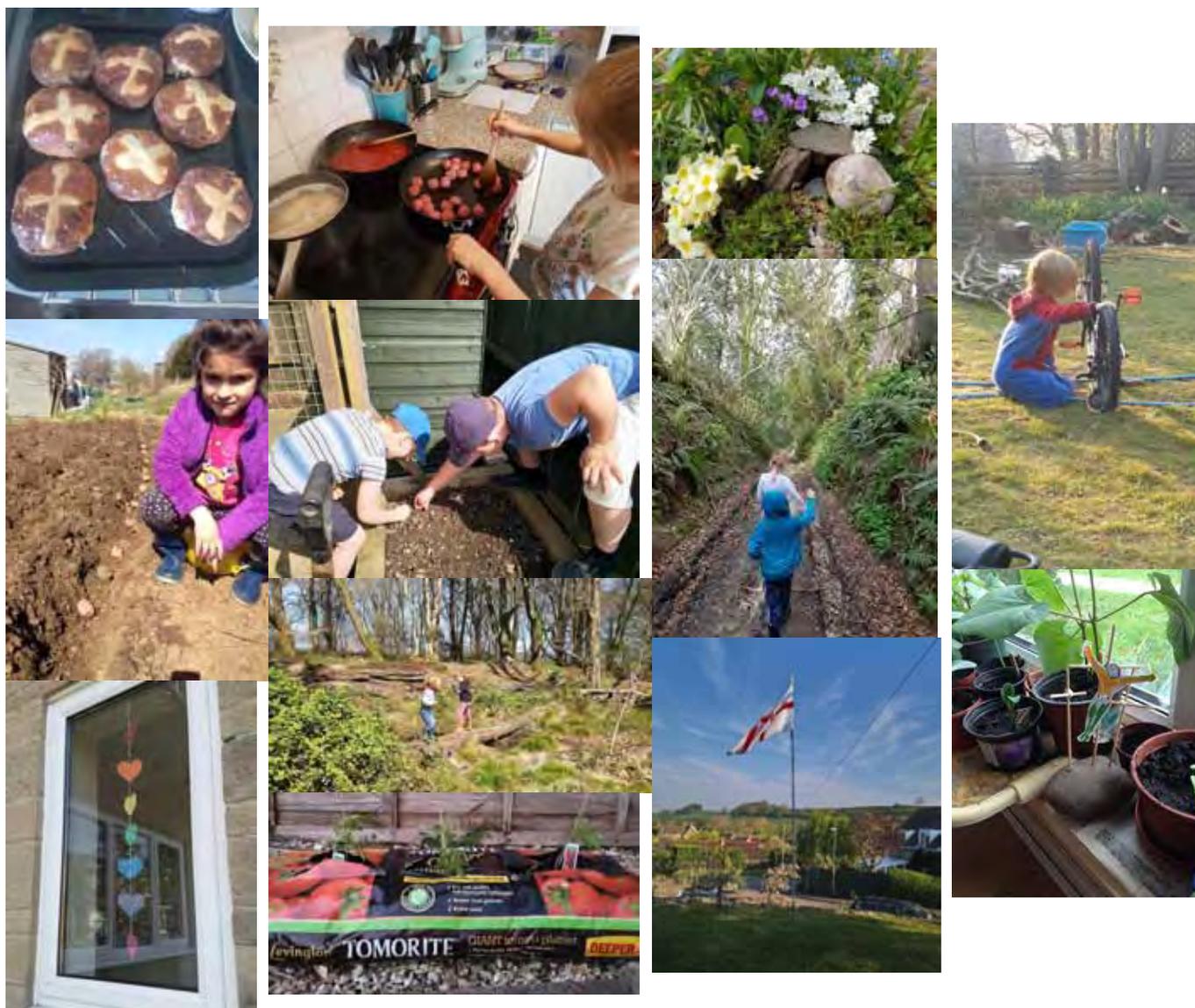
Although there is no face-to-face Scouting in the UK at this present time, Scouting is very much alive in the Beaminster area. The young people have been making full use of the sunshine by working towards many badges. They have been hiking for a purpose with their families, each hike covering 2,3 or 4 hours depending on which section they are in, resulting in earning a Hikes Away badge. Many Cubs have been doing the Gardener badge, planting seeds and looking after part of a garden. Several young people are looking at nature by identifying minibeasts and wild flowers. Some are doing a Nights Away badge, camping in a den or tent with a parent in their garden. Earlier in March, several young people did the Chef's badge, cooking some tempting dishes. There are several photos here of the young people enjoying Scouting at home.

April 23 is St. George's Day, when Scouts in the UK renew their promises as Scouts, St George being the patron saint of Scouting. Generally, there are parades and activities to celebrate this day. This year, members of Scouting are celebrating this day at home. Many of our Beaminster Scouting members made me very proud, as they donned their uniforms and clapped for carers outside their homes. Well done, all of you!

We hope to resume proper Scouting in September, when we will be able to do activities altogether, and perhaps attend Scout Camps, etc, but we need to 'watch this space'.

If you are interested in Scouting in Beaminster, either now or when we properly return to face-to-face Scouting, please be in contact with me on 01308 862055.

Joy Edwards



BLACKDOWN

BLACKDOWN NEWS

With church and call events cancelled or postponed until further notice, there is not a lot of current news to talk about, though Philip has managed to keep the churchyard mown. Some of the businesses in the area have had to close whilst others continue, such as the garage and the farms, who hope their milk will still be collected.

Over 100 licensed organisations were created in the UK with the abolition of the Milk Marketing Board (MMB) on 31 March 1994, which since 1933 had given farmers a reliable and regular service, a guaranteed secure marketplace for perishable milk at a decent price. No longer at the mercy of individual dairies who didn't always want your milk, pay you for it or even went bust. Today the situation has arisen again although a decent price and security of contract and milk cheque has not necessarily also been forthcoming in those 26 years. Those dairy farms who sell their milk to a dairy company which mainly supplies the dairy food industry, most of which is now shut down and has few other markets for their milk, as other dairy companies have the supermarket contracts or processing facilities, are now telling their dairy farmers to reduce their milk collected, or at worse pour it down the drain, as well as delaying payment for previous milk supplied and in the future, and dropping their milk price by 2-3 pence per litre to 23-24 ppl (to be continued).

On a brighter note, Marshwood Vale Young Farmers' *Pass the Toilet Roll Challenge* was briefly shown on the West Country News (ITV) and is available to view on the Young Farmers' Facebook page as well as on BBC Spotlight's Facebook page, as they decided not to show it on their live news.

Helen Doble

BROADWINDSOR

ECO GROUP UPDATE

On Saturday 14 March we planted a further 210 small trees on Hursey Common on both sides of the main road out of the village. This brings our total to 239 with one final yew to go in the church garden we hope, this will be 240. We were lucky with a fairly dry morning and although the ground was extremely boggy all went well.

My huge thanks to the small team of cheerful and hard-working volunteers: David, Tony, Linda, Hazel, Bob, Peter, Ian, Francesca, Dorothy and myself.

We have also purchased a picnic table for the football pitch area which is now in situ just in time for lovely weather. I am awaiting to attach a sign to this to credit the AONB grant we received and the Beaminster Area Eco Group but of course at present nowhere is open! This will happen as soon as I am able.

In addition we at last have our wheelie bins: two already at the Craft Centre which are for tetrapaks and aluminium foil items respectively. These are clearly labelled and I encourage everyone to make use of them. They will be regularly checked and emptied by one of the Eco group and taken to the recycling centre in Bridport. *Please* do not put anything else in them! We are doing this to try and increase the amount of recycling in the village that is currently not possible at the kerbside. We need the help of *everyone* for this to be a success. Please spread the word to those who do not get the magazines.

We now have our third wheelie bin in place outside the school. It depicts what can go in it. Crisp packets, peanuts, Pringles, sweetie wrappers. Basically most crinkly wrapping. My grateful thanks to the Roy family for all their hard work in doing a fantastic job decorating the bin. Please use it!

Happy recycling! If you would like to join us or help in any way please contact either Linda Sherman on 868971 or me on 868949.

Jackie Riley

BITS

Did you know that Specsavers Bridport is open for emergency and essential eye care? Chris is there normal working hours, but suggests that you phone first if you need help or advice (01308 455960).

On Thursday night [April 9] the residents of Broadwindsor not only clapped to say thank you to our front-line workers, we had a trumpet fanfare and plenty of pans and wooden spoons. Don't forget Thursdays, 8.00pm!

Each day at 1.00pm Margery, who lives in the village square, opens her window and plays music to cheer up the whole village.

Just because there is little traffic and few people about in our village, it does not mean that the 20mph limit has been made redundant, so please, you people that have for several reasons to drive through the village, continue to obey the law and drive safely! Thank you.

Camille Newall

BURSTOCK

FROM THE BURSTOCK ARCHIVES (*Bridport News* 14 June 1912)

LENTHALL – FOWLER. June 1st at St Andrew's Church, Burstock by the Rev C G Hutchings assisted by the Rev P T P Knott. Mr John Kiddle Lenthall, second son of Mr and Mrs Henry Lenthall of the Manor Farm, Burton Bradstock to Miss Elsie Mary Fowler, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs John Fowler of the Manor Farm, Burstock.

The little village of Burstock was very gay with arches, mottoes and flags on Saturday June 1st, when the marriage of Miss Elsie M Fowler, elder daughter of Mr John Fowler, of Manor Farm, to Mr John H Lenthall was solemnised in St Andrew's Church.

The church, which was beautifully decorated for the occasion by several ladies in the village, was filled with guests and friends of the bride and groom. Miss S Lenthall presided at the harmonium and the choir sang "Lead Us heavenly Father lead us", as the bride, accompanied by her father, entered the church. She was attended by her sister, Miss Annie Fowler, and Mr Ralph Gillingham performed the duties of best man. The bride's dress was of soft cream satin; veil and orange blossom, and she wore a pearl, peridot and amethyst pendant. The bridesmaid was attired in pale pink voile, with hat to match, and both carried shower bouquets, the gifts of the bridegroom. The officiating clergymen were Rev G C Hutchings and the Rev P T P Knott.

Mr and Mrs Fowler entertained about 40 guests at Manor Farm after the ceremony.

The bride and bridegroom later in the afternoon motored to Exeter, en route for Ilfracombe.

The presents, which were numerous and handsome, included a marble clock with brass inscription, and hot-water jug from the employees of the Manor Farm, Burton Bradstock and a biscuit barrel and butter dish from the employees of Manor Farm, Burstock. The Sunday School children at Burstock presented the bride with a silver bread fork. On Thursday Mr and Mrs Fowler entertained the school children to tea and the employees to supper when the village was again *en fete*.



The photograph shows the wedding party outside Manor Farm, Burstock. If anyone has any photos or stories about any of the above mentioned, I would be very interested to hear from them.

Kate Penney

DRIMPTON

DRIMPTON IN LOCKDOWN

Drimpton villagers were taking advantage of the fine weather and advice to 'stay local' for exercise around the village. Rarely have the local roads been so devoid of motor traffic and filled with walkers, joggers and cyclists. In normal times having a conversation with a neighbour 2 to 3 yards apart would seem rather odd but has now become the norm.

The monthly 100 club draw, usually done at a village lunch, was done with the help of a neighbour picking the numbers out while standing in our front garden and calling them out to me indoors! – result below.

Norman Marsden

ST MARY'S CHURCH, DRIMPTON. 100 CLUB DRAW MARCH 2020

	<u>Name</u>	<u>N^o</u>	<u>Prize</u>
1st Prize	Mrs A Stone	61	£15
2nd Prize	Mr E Gerrard	39	£10
3rd Prize	Mr A Trott	50	£5
4th Prize	Mrs H Hill	9	£5

HOOKE

HOOKE VILLAGE @ COVID-19

Many people who live in Hooke, say that it is a special place in which to live, and it has a good community spirit. Since the lockdown due to the virus, there has been a wealth of community-minded happenings. We have been blessed with the offer of purchasing basic foods from Hooke Court who have been receiving foods from a wholesaler. People have been kindly collecting supplies from Fruit 'n' 2 Veg and Nick Tett. Little Angus Butchers from Grimstone, Bridget's Market and Punch & Judy, both from Bridport, have been delivering supplies of vegetables and bakery products. No one has had to go hungry in Hooke!

A sharing table of seeds and plants has been placed outside Fiona's door, and people have been collecting elastic to give to Sheelagh who is making face masks for carers. Pete has been organising Quiz Nights via Zoom.

As you can see, the tiny village of Hooke is very alive!

Joy Edwards

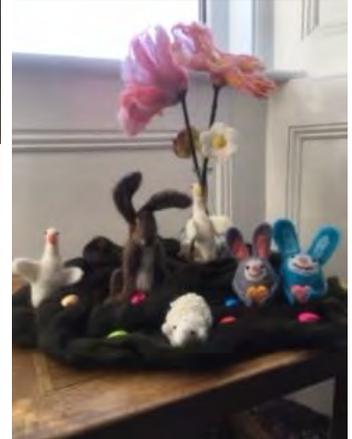
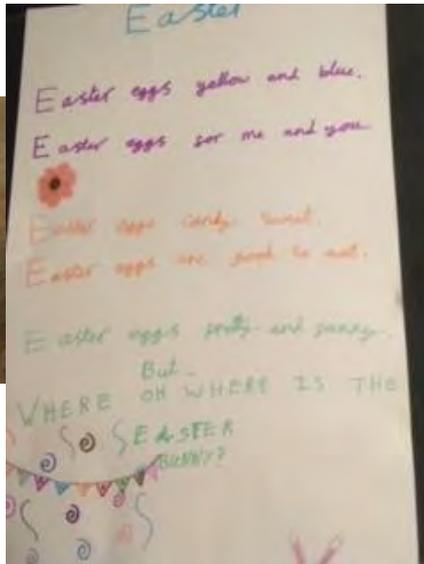


SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CHURCH IN HOOKE

During the absence of Sunday School in April, and decorating the church porch like we usually do at Easter, I asked the children and some adults to be creative at home. You can see the results below.

During Holy Week we had a wooden cross in the churchyard, with a crown of thorns placed at the top. On Easter Morning Pat decorated the cross with flowers, with a jug of flowers by the church door portraying 'Happy Easter'. It was a joy to see, as there were no Easter Services this year.

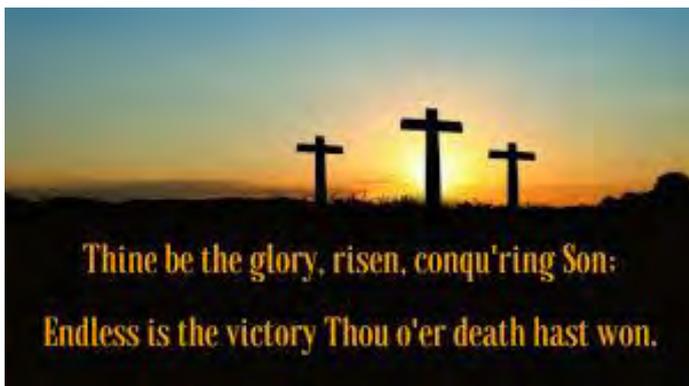
Joy & Pat



MAPPERTON

MAPPERTON NEWS

Mapperton's small community wishes good health, determination and happiness to all the parishes. This lockdown is difficult for all and though life seems on hold many things are happening. We have set up a twice-weekly Mapperton Meals service. Mark Pile, the Mapperton cafe chef, is making free lunch for 50 high-risk people only in need of help. Sam Pearce of Beaminster Town Council and Eddy Pearce of Netherbury and Melplash are organising the distribution. If you know of anyone in these areas only who needs help, please let Sam or Eddy know.



We Montagus at Mapperton are a locked-down 'pod' of 12 members of the family. It's very busy; four children are back at virtual school, two are writing university essays, Julie Montagu is doing virtual yoga (and house tours), John and I are backing up and gardening/watering, Jemima is working on heritage in the Czech Republic and Luke is trying to keep everything in order.

On Easter Day we twelve went into All Saints and sang two hymns, *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* and *Thine be the Glory*, accompanied by YouTube organ, read the Gospel and thanked providence for our good health. On Good Friday we said prayers in the church.

Caroline Montagu

MELPLASH

MELPLASH NEWS

Not much to say, except all very quiet. You can hear and see more of nature, which helps.

The Garden Club challenge was a Lavatera pink mini bush seed. Not sure yet if there is a meeting in August but it will grow and I am sure be beautiful on our next meeting. Mine has come up like a treat..

Keep well.

Annemarie Bishop-Spangenberg

FROM THE OLD VICARAGE

Mother is another word for love, to become a mother is seldom hard, but to *be* a mother is.



Think of Mother Teresa (26 August 1910 - 5 September 1997). Commonly known as Mother Teresa, she was an Albanian Roman Catholic nun and missionary looking after lepers, the homeless and the poorest of the poor in the slums of Calcutta. One of her most important quotes is, and I so believe in that, even more so now: "Let us always meet each other with a smile, for a smile is the beginning of love". She also said: "Life is an opportunity, benefit from it. Life is beauty, admire it. Life is a dream, realise it. Life is a challenge, meet it. Life is a duty, complete it. Life is a game, play it. Life is costly, care for it. Life is wealth, keep it. Life is love, enjoy it. Life is a mystery, know it. Life is a promise, fulfil it. Life is sorrow, overcome it. Life is a song, sing it. Life is a struggle, accept it. Life is a tragedy, confront it. Life is an adventure, dare it.

Life is luck, make it. Life is too precious, do not destroy it. Life is life, fight for it. We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. Peace begins with a smile."

Mother Teresa was proclaimed a saint by the church in 2016.

Annemarie Bishop-Spangenberg

MOSTERTON

MOSTERTON RAMBLING CLUB

Our first outing in March saw eight members set out in fine weather from Norton-sub-Hamdon to the outskirts of Stoke and thence on to Ham Hill. After a welcome coffee stop – outdoors! – at the Prince of Wales, we returned via Little Norton for lunch at the Lord Nelson.

Then, of course, came the Beast From The East, which put paid to our programme for the foreseeable future. This included the AGM, scheduled for March 21, and our Dorothy Yates memorial outing to Killerton on June 3, which was cancelled by the National Trust. We sincerely hope that our traditional summer tea party can happen, and also the residential holiday to Shropshire in September. Meanwhile we must, alas, walk alone! (At least the dogs are happy!)



Finally, a gentle reminder that 2020-21 membership subscriptions (£8pp) are now due – thanks to those who have already paid.

Stay safe and well!

Roger Hudspith

MOSTERTON GARDENING CLUB

Unfortunately we had to cancel our spring show in March for obvious reasons and so the daffodils that The Gardens Group Gold Club had given us were never exhibited. However our Chair, Sue Burnand, invited members to send photos of them and other spring flowers in their respective gardens, some of which are displayed elsewhere in the magazine. Sue did manage to get our next competition plants from The Gold Club out to members before the Covid-19 restrictions and these are bush geraniums, 'New Century Red', which came as plugs. Hopefully all our members have potted them on now and we, optimistically, look forward to exhibiting them at our Annual Summer Show on 15 August.

All other Tuesday monthly meetings have been cancelled until further notice, but by now, with this warm spell of weather, flower and vegetables seedlings should be well on their way and your gardens looking colourful. Beware though, Jack Frost can still come calling, so protect any vulnerable plants!

Now 'vulnerable', that's a word that seems over-used in the present situation. It has been a shock to many of us to be categorised in this way, but as long as we can enjoy our gardens, we are the lucky ones. Let us spare a thought for those who don't have that luxury.

Mo Sullivan

MOSTERTON PCC

Everyone must submit himself to the governing authority, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. *Romans 13:1*

And that told *me!* Though grieved, I reluctantly came to terms with the closure of Mosterton church, although I had initially rebelled. As a churchwarden checking up on the building I did have a couple of lock-ins with God, with an ensuing rap over the knuckles! But wasn't it encouraging over Easter to have the tower cross brightly lit up, shining out, emitting love and hope?

Ella Venning

A BIG THANK YOU

Dear all in Mosterton village, Littlewindsor, South Perrott and Chedington village,

I just want to take this opportunity to say a big thank you and encourage you to keep going to so many who have been involved in the Mosterton Community Support Group. It is very inspirational to see so many people who have come forward to help and volunteer for those who are in need within our communities. A massive thank you from my heart for your time and commitment. I am totally inspired by Mosterton and the surrounding villages, how they have pulled together. You are all amazing communities within my eyes.

I have had various conversations with people in Mosterton village saying how grateful they are for our village shop, and how amazing Caroline and Russell Cunningham and family and all the staff who are working at the shop are. They have gone over and above with their support for the community. I also want to thank Russell, being our IT specialist and amazing designer in the group. I would also like to give a big thank you to Emma House and family for all the communication networking around the villages, promoting and making sure people have received leaflets and posters. A big thanks is needed to Graham Fry and Ella Venning for the church's help with the knowledge of all in the village, and Neil Hickman and Vicky Reed from the Parish Council and all their help. Also a big thank you to Parrett and Axe Primary School who have been amazing distributing the posters, and keeping open for the key workers' children within the village. My final thanks goes to all at the Fred Young Trust with their support within the Mosterton Community Support Group.

No doubt we all probably know someone who has either had coronavirus and recovered or sadly passed away. My heartfelt sympathies go out to you. When times get hard for me there is a passage I turn to in the Bible, which is from Joshua 1:9 and says:

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

This passage encourages us all in times of uncertainty. We have still a long way to go before we come out of lockdown, so let us continue to help and encourage one another and stay safe.

Lastly I want to say a big thank you to all who are in isolation. I know for some of you it has been extremely challenging because you like to help people in the community or to those who are on the frontline in the NHS, or other key workers, whom we all thank, and appreciate you.

With the warmest of blessings,

Fiona Beale, Curate for the Beaminster Area Team

NETHERBURY

APOLOGIES

Most Netherbury residents failed to receive their printed copies of *Team News* last month because the government's 'Stay at Home' instruction to people in the more vulnerable categories meant the usual volunteers who do the deliveries were unable to go out and do so. However, that edition, and this one, do appear online via beaminsterteamchurches.org.

Unfortunately, because the lockdown came after the last edition went to press, there were a number of posters for events which had to be called off or postponed. Although the *Team News* editors did their best with some late changes just before printing took place, amid the confusion most of the editorial content on the Netherbury pages was omitted. Some of it is being repeated here.

Paul Radford

EASTER EVENTS GO AHEAD – AT A DISTANCE

It takes more than a lockdown to stop the traditional village Easter celebrations in Netherbury. Both the annual egg decoration competition and the Easter egg hunt went ahead



over Easter weekend even if both had to be done differently this year out of respect for social distancing. The decorating competition was done remotely with entrants posting their designs on WhatsApp and judging done by members of the London Art Academy, courtesy of local artist Rob Pepper who is its principal. Winners in the four age group categories were:

- Adult – Rachael Harkness
- Secondary school – Merry Allen
- Primary school – William Bowditch
- Pre-school – Lowri Pepper



The egg hunt trail was laid by Clare Handford and her daughter Sophie. They 'planted' rocks painted with Easter-themed pictures at designated points around Netherbury. Competitors who were able to identify all the pictures received chocolate egg prizes, of course. Both competitions attracted a good number of entries.

Paul Radford

PROVISIONAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

14 July	Village Lunch, Village Hall, 12.00 noon
1 Aug	Summer show, Village Hall
12-13 Sept	Open Gardens weekend
18 Sept	Harvest Supper, Village Hall, 7.00 for 7.30 pm
13 Oct	Village Lunch, Village Hall, 12.00 noon
10 Nov	Village Lunch, Village Hall, 12.00 noon
12 Dec	Christmas Supper, Village Hall. 7.00 for 7.30 pm

VILLAGE HALL CLOSED

The village hall closed in March and will not reopen while the current social contact restrictions are in place. The heating has been turned off and all the appliances have been shut down.

Yvonne Dobson

OPEN GARDENS WEEKEND POSTPONED

Due to the present and continuing uncertain conditions it has been decided to postpone the usual June weekend. The gardens – and lunches, teas and tombola – will now hopefully open on 12 and 13 September 2020.

Anne Peck

VILLAGE NEWS

There are many heartening stories of good deeds, neighbourliness and community spirit that have come out of the enforced disruption of normal social life. Apart from Eddy Pearce's village support organisation which seemed to spring magically from nowhere, there are numerous micro groups formed by people in the same street or hamlet shopping for each other, fetching prescriptions, etc. I suspect we all thought we lived in a pretty special place. Now we know for sure.

One of those uplifting stories involves several ladies in the Netherbury yoga group who decided they would carry on paying their teacher even after the classes had to end when the village hall closed. They were conscious that the teacher depended on her yoga income and might face a bleak time without a helping hand.

Steve Doman, who made his views known on pub quizzes last month, has also joined in the debate on whether Netherbury should have a 20-mph speed limit by suggesting to drivers they leave five minutes earlier than usual and go more slowly through the village. It would be hard to disagree.

It is good news that the playing field will be getting new playground equipment. The playing field committee are also hoping to raise further funds, primarily to buy new cricket nets, when they are able to do so. Their planned treasure hunt in April was, unfortunately, called off.

Paul Radford

FOOTPATHS REMAIN OPEN

After reports that notices had been put up on some local footpaths in the Netherbury area indicating they had been closed because of the coronavirus, Dorset Council issued the following statement to make it clear all public rights of way must remain open and issuing guidance for people to use them responsibly. The statement said:

Dorset has almost 3,000 miles of rights of way criss-crossing the county, giving access to the countryside via footpaths, bridleways, trailways and cycleways. These provide a very useful resource for people under the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) restrictions to complete their one form of daily exercise, while social distancing. Maintained by Dorset Council and landowners, these paths should not be blocked or obstructed and cannot legally be closed to the public.

Many of these paths cross agricultural or forestry land. So, if you are using them, be mindful of the restrictions, keep to the Rights of Way, ensure gates are closed, dogs are kept under close control and on leads where required and clear up after your dog – taking your dog's waste home with you to place in your household dustbin. Dog's faeces can carry germs that are harmful to livestock.

Travel for exercise is not essential travel and you should use paths that you can access from your home. Where rights of way pass close to, or through residential and agricultural properties, it is important that the existing Government advice regarding social distancing and hand washing is followed.

If there is a particular problem with people gathering on rights of way or cycleway/walking trails, then the police should be informed. They have the power to disperse any groups behaving in such a way.

Dorset Council

NETHERBURY HELPERS

Salway Ash, Netherbury & Melplash Community Support is a wide-ranging group of local residents offering a range of support to anyone in the neighbourhood (Salway Ash, Netherbury or Melplash villages and surrounding area) during this unique time. Many people are helping each other in small groups of friends or neighbours. However, not everyone has this support. So we are here to help those who do not have back-up, to support local businesses, and to help in any other way we can, and to share useful and relevant information. We want to make the most of the positivity that brings us all together at a time when we are being advised to stay apart.

We have a large number of volunteers who have been helping with collecting shopping, prescriptions and medications, or just being a voice at the end of the phone. Working with the larger network of other groups and organisations in both Beaminster and Bridport we can also help point people in the right direction for help with clinical, medical, wellbeing, mental health, volunteering, and business support.

Contacts: tel: 01308 808906 (generally 9.00am-5.00pm but checking messages all the time), netherburyhelpers@gmail.com, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/netherburysupport/>, www.nextdoor.co.uk (we can help with joining for people who are not already part of the Nextdoor website).

Eddy Pearce

FREE MEALS FROM MAPPERTON

The Mapperton Estate, its staff and the Montagu family are very generously offering home-cooked meals, free of charge, to those in our community who need it most.

Mark Pile, head chef at the Coach House Café at Mapperton, has volunteered his time to produce a variety of ready-made meals, including a vegetarian option, on a weekly basis, from the Coach House kitchen. Members of the Montagu family help package and deliver the food to Beaminster Hall and then volunteers are used to deliver locally. The meals are available to any vulnerable people in our area, for examples those who are isolated or unable to make or receive fresh food themselves, or to those who may not be able to afford critical supplies at this time, or who may be struggling in other ways due to work or other commitments. All food containers are clearly labelled with ingredients, highlighting allergens and best-before information.

Requests for meals are being managed between Beaminster Community Resilience team and me. I'm co-ordinating requests for Netherbury, Salwayash, Melplash and the surrounding smaller hamlets and rural areas.

If you are able to pass on details of this to people who may not be on email or who may particularly benefit from or appreciate these meals, then please spread the word. For anyone who is within the Netherbury Parish area, contact should be with me directly (tel: 07730 898063 or email: clare_southwell@hotmail.com). Alternatively, contact can be made via the Beaminster Community Resilience team on their emergency support numbers 01308 863634 or 07377 435186 (after hours).

Clare Handford

BERRIES EXTEND THEIR LEAD

The Netherbury Berries short mat bowls team were riding higher and higher until the lockdown forced a postponement of league matches until further notice. The most recent victory, a comprehensive 81-30 trouncing of Toller Trotters in March, took Berries six points clear at the top of the Beaminster and District League. With four matches to go, only South Perrott Swallows, last season's champions, have any chance of stopping them from winning the title.

Paul Radford

NEW CLOTHES FOR OLD DOLLIES



Just before the lockdown began, some of the attendees at Desperados Toddler Group in the village hall made a request. The dollies and teddies were short of clothes. Some of them, such as Big Brown Dolly, pictured, were only blessed with a bonnet, which is barely respectable! What was needed were some knitting Nanas (this one is not enough of a knitter), so a plea went out on NextDoor Netherbury.

The response was amazing. With the thought of a long lockdown to come, several kind people came forward to offer their skills, and I set off on my bike for my permitted exercise, dropping packages of patterns, yarn and the important dolly vital statistics to the willing volunteers. One kind lady offered to sew clothes as well so Big Brown Dolly had a bike ride off to Jo Mann's house to be kitted out.

We cannot wait for the time when Desperados might meet up again. Several of our children will be leaving us to start school in September but before Betty, Heidi and Felix leave I hope they will be able to enjoy the new dolly and teddy clothes. Thank you in advance to the kindly knitters.

Yvonne Dobson

ANOTHER LORRY TRANSGRESSION

Camesworth Lane in Oxbridge suffered yet another inappropriate lorry incursion when an outsized HGV got stuck after making a delivery. Unable to negotiate the tight bends at the bridge over the Brit, it tried unsuccessfully to turn around, taking down a footpath sign and causing damage and mayhem to hedges and banks over a long stretch of the lane. Yes, the driver had seen the large sign off the A3066 saying 'Unsuitable for Heavy Vehicles' but had decided to ignore it. In the end, he trapped several vehicles in the lane for some time as he painfully reversed the best part of a mile down a single-track back to the main road. Something needs to be done to stop this happening as it is becoming ever more frequent, is causing more and more damage to our hedgerows and is disrupting residents' access to and from their homes.

Paul Radford

SALWAY ASH

SALWAY ASH 100 CLUB

The two £15 winners for March were Peter & Valerie House (No. 22) and Lyn & Brian Goward (No. 44)

Anne Woodward

SALWAY ASH LADIES GROUP

It was with great reluctance that we had to forgo our coffee morning, our usual social gathering to raise funds for local charities. We're looking forward to meeting up with you again, once we are able to resume these social activities.

Meanwhile we have been keeping in touch with one another, making sure folk have access to what they need. An exchange of freshly-picked rhubarb for some homemade biscuits left outside a door. Jigsaw borrowing, book recommendations, offers to shop or add provisions to an online list; these all help us to stay safe, well and in touch.

We've had a poetry competition based on our last speaker's, Caroline Dilke, subject of bees. Her talk was inspirational, and this showed in the verses. We have been set puzzles by Lyn, which have kept us guessing and we exchange photos of flowers in our gardens.

I've been writing a diary of events, stories and poems to reflect our situation, beats cleaning out cupboards!

Loraine Parnell

SALWAY ASH SCHOOL NEWS

Despite the challenging month that March has been for all of us, there were still lots of positive moments to reflect upon for the pupils at Salway Ash School, largely due to the enthusiasm of the staff and children.

We celebrated World Book Day on Friday 6 March, with the children able to dress up as a character from their favourite book. The school bell rang several times throughout the day to indicate to the children and teachers that they could stop and read from their chosen books.

On Monday 9 March we had a special visitor. Former Team GB acrobatic gymnast Isabel Haigh came to see the children and help them take part in a sponsored circuits session. They were all treated to a display of Isabel's gymnastic skills. 60% of funds raised went towards Sports for Schools and 40% funded the purchase of new sports equipment for our school.

Some of our older children took part in a variety of sporting events in March where they had the opportunity to compete against children from other primary schools in the area. These included cross-country relays at Colfox School, a tag rugby festival hosted by Bridport Rugby Club, a swimming gala at the 1610 Leisure Centre in Dorchester and a football tournament, which ended for our team with a nail-biting penalty shootout to bring them home in third place.

The Government announced on Wednesday 18 March that schools should close at the end of that week, (except to provide childcare for the children of key workers), to try and limit the spread of coronavirus. This unprecedented time has presented a number of challenges for our teaching staff who have had to adapt to the widespread use of technology to provide some ongoing learning and a way of communicating to our pupils. Thank you to all staff and parents for working together so positively at this very difficult time.

We look forward to reporting a return to normality in the future, whenever that may be.

Darren Stanton, Foundation Governor

SEABOROUGH

There has been no copy for Seaborough this month.

SOUTH PERROTT & CHEDINGTON

SOUTH PERROTT NEWS

So much has changed in one short month:

- 1) The word 'furlough' has become a commonly used word, sadly a reality for many and lots of companies face uncertain times where they cannot trade and do not see an end in sight.
- 2) Working from home has become the norm and using electronic meetings and video calls has become second nature, I now have an odd commute from the kitchen to the office but at least I will get to work on time, can't use the excuse of traffic on the A303 when I'm late now!
- 3) Queuing outside supermarkets and entering only one at a time has become the normal. I miss being able to wander into Waitrose and select dinner for that evening.
- 4) Social distancing, precautions to prevent the spread of the virus, have become important. Sad to not be able to hug family and friends, especially when everyone is understandably anxious about the 'what if'.



Family get-togethers have been replaced by Zoom and Facetime calls, with everyone getting into using technology. My workmates and I have even been hosting a weekly 'virtual pub' after work on Friday with people connecting via video and enjoying the same experience as having gone out after work for a few drinks, this has proved much fun. Lots of families also hosting weekly online quiz nights too.

Unfortunately, we don't know how long restrictions will stay in place or even what the future may look like. Social distancing may continue for some time until a vaccine is available.

In these anxious and troubled times, it has been so nice to see the village pulling together. Hopefully you have used your 'village volunteer' if you have needed them. Massive thanks go to those people who stepped forward to help; we really are so lucky to live in such a lovely village with such friendly people.

We don't currently know when church will recommence, but some uplifting news to report. Christine Howard presented long service medals to both Sylvia Daw and Fred Cox recently. For Sylvia it was for over 70 years' service in the South Perrott choir and Fred has completed over 38 years playing St. Mary's organ. What a massive achievement! Thank you both for your dedication.

The church roof fundraising has for obvious reasons stalled, but I'm pleased to report that by the end of March we had already raised over £1400 to go towards the repairs. Hopefully we can restart after lockdown and make some more progress.

Stay safe everyone!

Jane Baker

CHEDINGTON NEWS

Everyone in Chedington is keeping well, we've a lot of community self help going on, largely organised through a Whatsapp group (contact Susan Aspinal to join).

Mike Johnson

PS: Please also see *A Big Thank You* in the Mosterton section – it's addressed to South Perrott and Chedington folk too. Ed.

STOKE ABBOTT

CHURCH NEWS

In the long story of replacing the ancient church heating system there are three parts to the plan the PCC is pursuing. First, we have to remove the asbestos-clad 1958 boiler which has long been on its last legs. Second, we intend to replace it with a modest electric boiler to provide back-up heating. Third, we are working towards installation of an air-to-air heat pump system if we can obtain the necessary permissions.



So far, we have approval from the diocese to remove the boiler and install the electric replacement, the latter subject to public consultation and final approval by the diocese. To complete the consultation a notice has been displayed in the church porch, where it will remain until 13 May, giving details of what is proposed. Alternatively, I can provide them (via david@conveners.eu) for anyone interested.

Work on removal and the new installation is on hold until the Church of England relaxes the rules on access to church buildings. The approval process for the air-to-air system will take longer, not least as this would be the first such system to be installed in a church in the Salisbury diocese.

David French

PS: Particular thanks to Celia Rus for the beautiful display of flowers which she placed in the church porch over Easter.

WINGS OVER KENYA



Having recently returned from Kenya for reasons which hardly need explaining, I now have time to reflect on and share the details of the volunteer work I was undertaking there. I was working as a volunteer pilot with the charity Save the Elephants, founded in 1993 by Dr Iain Douglas-Hamilton. The charity has a fleet of two aircraft, a Cessna 185 and a Cessna 206, which are vital to the success of their mission. Save the Elephants are pioneers in elephant tracking technology and have developed an application which displays the movements of hundreds of collared elephants across Africa. The data provided by these elephant collars is invaluable when it comes to protecting them against poachers and human developments which threaten to

restrict or block their generations-old migration corridors. But the remoteness and relative inaccessibility of northern Kenya, combined with the sheer size of an elephant's range, means that light aircraft present the only feasible option to collect data which the collars cannot.

Reconnaissance flights are pre-planned and methodical. A list of elephants desired to be seen that day is drawn up, and once in the air we try to determine their location by tuning a receiver to the desired elephant's unique VHF collar frequency. We then gather data such as a detailed count of all elephants seen, their interactions with one another, and proximity to human activity to name just a few. Eyes in the sky are also crucial when collaring an elephant as it may run off once darted with a sedative; needless to say, the consequences of losing sight of it would be disastrous!

This long-term scientific data which Save the Elephants has been collecting, and in which aircraft play no small role, allows us to view with increasing clarity the complex nature of these remarkably intelligent and emotional animals. For more information, and to donate, please visit www.savetheelephants.org.



Angus Carey

LOCKED DOWN IN THE PYRENEES

It's the beginning of April. You will be reading this in May, by which time everything will have changed. Here, as in the UK, the situation shifts day by day.

The life we have chosen shares our time between the French Pyrenees and West Dorset. By chance we are "locked-down" in France. It could easily have been the other way round.

I write this in our fourth week of 'confinement'. There is no shortage of food and, of course, there is the wine. The view of the mountains from our balcony is magnificent, even though, at present, they are out of bounds. We have each other. Otherwise, all social life has stopped. Though, when I think of those shut up in tiny apartments, or those who are ill, I can't bring myself to complain.

Days are filled with the obvious activities: reading, gardening, music, internet. Our once-a-week trip to the supermarket down in the valley has ceased to be a pleasurable outing. Instead, we are masked and gloved, looking anxiously at some around us who, chatting and coughing over the vegetables, remain apparently oblivious to the gravity of the situation. We get away as quickly as possible.

The highlight of the day is our one hour of permitted exercise. When the new rules were announced, two weeks ago, I took our map of the village and drew a circle of 1km radius around the house in order to work out where we are entitled to walk. So, we descend the mountainside to the *point propreté* (recycling place), then back up to the highest point of the zone, thus getting the maximum value from the outing.

A military helicopter carries out regular surveillance to make sure we are not venturing further afield and the gendarmes are frequent visitors. They will want to see that we have the required paperwork and means of identification. Failure to comply attracts a hefty fine of 135 euros for the first offence.

During the lockdown I've been reading a book called *The Old Ways* by Robert MacFarlane. In it he explores paths and tracks from a number of perspectives: from the simply geographic to the philosophic, as in pilgrimage, for example. Being unable to go anywhere, it seemed like the perfect book to read. Yet, strangely, being 'confined' feels a bit like a journey, without of course, the travel. And the old cliché about being changed by the experience still holds. Let's hope it's for the better!

John Foot

POTATOES IN A POT

As some of you know, one of the most popular parts of The New Inn Annual Flower show is the Potato in a Pot competition. What happens is that you buy a seed potato, and a bag to grow it in, from us for £2. You then grow the potato in the bag, and then bring the whole bag to the Flower Show where your potatoes are weighed. Each year we have more and more entries, so why not give it a go this year? You can donate the potatoes to the auction, or keep them for yourself. The only rule is that the potato must be sown in the bag provided and brought as a whole bag to the Flower Show.



The potatoes and bags are out the front of the pub on a bench. Bring your £2, help yourself to a bag and get growing. Any compost or manure – it's your choice.

It's a great competition and all monies go to charity, so what are you waiting for? Let's get planting!

Kirsty Brown & Kevin Lole, New Inn

COVID-19

From Isolated in Beaminster! I am now having to think of ways to stay cheerful. And keep in touch with family. My NZ grandson, Shey, also now at home with the rest of the family, all isolated on their 2000-acre cattle, deer and bee farm (I don't quite call that isolated) has been set a daily photo challenge by his school, so I have the result each breakfast time, their tea time. No.1 was black and white, so back came a splendid photo of him (gosh, he has grown!) and their two black and white Dalmatians!

I sent this around my UK family and now we all respond with our take on the day's subject. It is hilarious. I have just had today's subject which was landscape and wonderful views of their farm; hills, no snow yet, and a rainbow right over the house. I am not sure I can compete, but will try for the view from my upstairs veranda, of the roofs of St Mary Well Street below me and then the hills beyond that and I can just see Gerrard's Hill behind the church tower. Just need a bit more sun. I can still also feel connected to Stoke Abbott.

Christine Corson

LOCKDOWN

If you have to be in lockdown then Stoke Abbott would seem a good place in which to be locked down. The quiet valley has become quieter and the birdsong louder. Life has slowed and there is plenty of time 'to stand and stare' at the leaves unfurling in that fresh, fresh green, time to notice just how many types of hover flies there are impersonating bees and to see just where various birds are building nests. The sun has not stopped shining and it is magical.

Further to this villagers have ensured that there are deliveries by local shops of vegetables, groceries, meat, bread and fish to a central location in the village and the collection of prescriptions, plus there are very good take-aways to be had from the New Inn.

By chance I picked up *Death Plus Ten Years* by Roger Cooper to read. He was a journalist/businessman who had lived in Iran for 25 years. He was married to an Iranian, had a daughter, loved the country, the people and the language and literature but in 1986 he was arrested and held prisoner – mainly in solitary.

If you need a primer to get you through self-isolation this is the book. He was a man of great resourcefulness. He charmed the helpful guards and outwitted the surly. He acquired books and set himself intellectual challenges. He fashioned backgammon boards and counters from bread and lemon pips. He managed to grow things in the gloom and he astounded his captors by cleaning his cell. His inventions were endless and his optimism held up despite learning that he had been sentenced to death plus 10 years which he managed to reverse into 10 years plus death. In the event he was released in 1991. Despite it all it was a very cheerful book.

Ingrid Hull

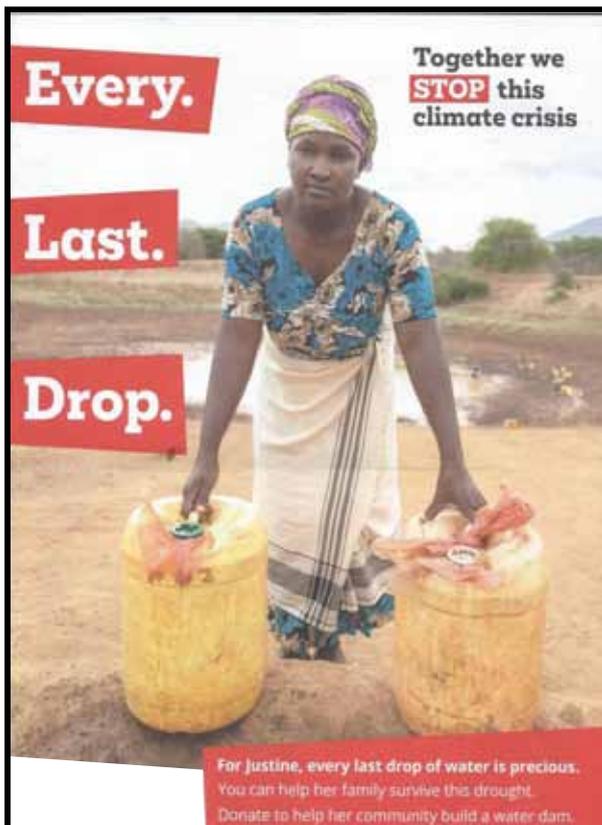
TOLLER PORCORUM

There has been no copy for Toller this month.



Keep scrolling down, though – there's plenty more yet!

CENTREPIECE



CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2020

The second week of May means Christian Aid Week, and *Team News* is always pleased to invite the local co-ordinator to take advantage of the front cover of the magazine to promote the charity, and to have the freedom of the inside pages to highlight specific themes and local initiatives.

Justine on the left would normally have appeared on your front cover, and what Judith has written at the foot of this section would have been the traditional Tailpiece. They have now been rolled into one to give you a *Centrepiece* instead.

Ed

EVERY LAST DROP

Kitui County, some 150 miles east of Nairobi in Kenya, is in the middle of a severe drought. The rains never came. 80% of the population depend on the rains to grow their crops and to keep their livestock healthy in order to eke out a fragile living. They obviously need drinking water too. Women are forced to walk ever-greater distances to fetch water. They are often faced with six-hour journeys under a scorching sun, and each full 40-litre jerry can on the way home weighs 40kg, or more than six stones. Sometimes they are attacked and robbed by others competing desperately for the same scarce resources.

There may well be an earth dam just minutes away from where they live, but too many of the dams are so small that every last drop of water they once contained has now gone.

Christian Aid would like to help build new, larger dams, capable of storing much more water for far longer. A working earth dam costs £132,000 to plan, construct and equip. Or, put another way, 8,000 households could have their lives massively improved for an investment in each of them of just over £16.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16 MAY IS NOT CANCELLED

As I write, all our thoughts at the moment must surely be focused on the Coronavirus and in particular all those who are suffering, who have died, who have already lost loved ones, who are battling to save lives, who are living in fear, who must rely on others for their food, who are providing deliveries, etc.

You may think that this is not the time to be thinking about the work of Christian Aid and to donate. However, Christian Aid week is normally their biggest source of income and the effect of not being able to do house-to-house collections or fundraising events will be devastating. Work to alleviate the effects of climate change is so vital for those around the world who live in far more difficult circumstances than we can ever imagine. Also the world's poorest countries have the weakest health systems and many don't have access to water – walking miles to find any – so many of the most vulnerable people will be exposed to this deadly Covid-19 virus and they really need our donations.

Christian Aid and their partners already have experience of limiting the spread of infection during the Ebola crisis, and will build on this experience to continue to stand together with communities living in poverty during this period. If infection rates develop as they have in Europe, then people in poorer countries will be hit even harder. Many are already living with reduced health resilience because of extreme poverty or in overcrowded humanitarian camps and

in countries which do not have the healthcare infrastructures needed to combat widespread disease. Christian Aid will be working on the ground to help prepare communities to limit the impact of Covid-19.

During Christian Aid Week there will be lots of information on the Team website beaminsterteamchurches.org and the Christian Aid website: daily live stream of prayer and reflections, quizzes and lots more. Please use the resources provided to keep you informed.

Your money is so vital at this time. Please, if you are in a position to be able to donate, do so online via the Christian Aid website or by phoning 020 7523 2493. Even if you can't donate, please pray throughout the week that Christian Aid and its partners will be able to continue with their vital work, helping those whose lives are already being affected by climate change and now Covid-19. Thank you.

Judith Hansen, Beaminster Team Co-ordinator for Christian Aid

POVERTY ABROAD AND A PANDEMIC AT HOME

At this time of year we traditionally reach out to people living in poverty abroad. Through organisations like Christian Aid and Cafod we have the power to support and sustain communities far away whom we will learn about and can learn from, but will rarely see.

This year, with the coronavirus, we have all suffered so much at home in terms of loss of earnings and isolation that we may think twice about helping the Third World 'as well'. The old cry 'what about poverty at home?' rings more true than ever. How can we possibly give priority to people we don't know over those still in desperate need around us?

It's easy for aid charities to put up photos of children in terrible distress abroad and appeal to our consciences that way. But most of us resist exaggeration, unless it is for an emergency appeal. And 'development' is quite subjective, meaning whatever you want it to mean. We also know that the quality of life in the poorest communities varies and can be just as high as ours. And the effects of the virus pandemic remind us that we in the UK are as vulnerable to a fatal disease as anyone else in the developing world.

When it comes to helping, the scale of need overseas is of course much greater. But we may now be more understanding of the problems generated by vicious epidemics abroad. And we are braver in our response to our own communities. For example, we have become much more aware of our closest neighbours and their relative needs: those who live in remote areas, those who are at high risk, those who live alone, and above all those who are succumbing to illness and need emergency aid. In West Dorset, like other places, church and other voluntary groups have sprung up to reach people almost overnight.

All those situations exist in the poorest countries too. How to reach those in need in countries like South Sudan and redistribute food and other benefits remains the overriding problem. Aid becomes more expensive and needy populations are in danger and difficult to target accurately. Suspicion creeps in and inevitably the media will blow up the story, often blaming the UN as a scapegoat.

So the aid agencies, already battling with their own troubles and shortage of funds, will have to overcome all these worries. But the most successful will have shown that the world has very similar problems and the way we solve them here will certainly show us the way over there, and vice versa. Here the old phrase 'one world', of course, comes to mind again.

John Montagu

CONFESSIONS OF A CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTOR

While assembling this centrepiece I was reminded of one of my own experiences as a Christian Aid house-to-house collector many years ago.

Most of my annual round was trouble-free, and often included a pleasant but rare chat with the neighbours. Some, however, were rude enough to ignore the doorbell when they knew I knew they were in; others at least went to the trouble of getting up and being rude to my face. I remember one particular exchange as if it were yesterday:



"Good evening! Christian Aid. I've come to collect the envelope I put through your door."
"The dog ate it."
"Would you like another one?"
"No."

A wittier rejoinder might have been along the lines of "No, thank you. The one I've got gives me enough trouble as it is." But this particular chap was rarely given to sophisticated repartee, and I don't think they even had a dog anyway.

Brian Earl



DISTINCTLY DORSET

SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF THE CERNE ABBAS GIANT

He has been linked with Homer Simpson and Marilyn Monroe. He may be 300 years old though his origins could go back thousands of years. He may represent the Roman God Hercules, a Saxon deity, a real giant or even Oliver Cromwell. He was, until lockdown days, on the itinerary of thousands of visitors to Dorset every year. He holds a unique position in the British postal system, has been adopted by the National Trust and is a listed monument even though he is, intrinsically, just some chalk scratchings on a hill.

He is, of course, the Cerne Abbas Giant, the largest representation of a naked man to be found in the country, and part of his mystique could soon be stripped from him. Archeologists started investigative on-site work in March to settle the controversy over his age. They are excavating small trenches to extract samples of soil from his feet and elbows. The samples will be dated using optically stimulated luminescence, a technique which determines when mineral grains in the soil were last exposed to sunlight. The same method was used on another of the nation's most famous chalk hill carvings, the Uffington White Horse in Oxfordshire which was found to be around 3,000 years old.

Though most of you will have seen him close up, he still merits a description. The carving in Giant Hill above the village of Cerne Abbas is 55 metres long, depicting a naked man wielding an enormous club in his right hand. But his main distinguishing feature, prompting titters and giggles among visiting schoolchildren, is the size and prominence of what we will here euphemistically call his manhood. There is no room for doubting that the giant represents a male and not a female. Postcards of him are said to be the only images of a naked man acceptable to the Post Office.

Opinion on his age and origin deeply divides people into two main camps – those who believe he has been there since ancient times and those who think he is of more recent provenance, most probably the 17th century. The Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society declared in 1896 that its members believed it was of 'very great antiquity'. But those convinced of its venerable age hold different theories, all involving deities. He could be a depiction of the Roman god Hercules, a Celtic god or even a Saxon deity. More recently scholars point to the lack of written or other records pre-dating the 17th century and suggest he was carved around the time of the Civil War and perhaps represented a parody of Oliver Cromwell.

The earliest known and accepted reference is an entry in the churchwardens' accounts for St Mary's church in Cerne Abbas in 1694 when three shillings was paid out for repairs to 'ye giant'. A detailed land survey for the area in 1617 had made no mention of the giant at all. However, there has never been persuasive enough evidence to end the arguments. An attempt to settle the issue, once and for all, was made in 1996 when a mock trial was held in Cerne Abbas before a jury, with expert witnesses presenting the two sides. The result was unsatisfyingly inconclusive. Half of the jury were swayed by the ancient origins' arguments, 35 per cent of them opted for the 17th century theory and the rest were undecided or uninterested.

So will this year's excavations bring final clarity and, if so, when? The joint study, by the University of Gloucestershire and The National Trust, who took over the giant in 1920, anticipated results by July this year but that was before the country went into lockdown, a step which will almost inevitably cause some delays.

For all too obvious reasons, the giant is often seen as a symbol of fertility. Villagers put up a maypole on the hill and childless couples would dance around it. According to folklore women who slept on the figure would conceive and there were suggestions that couples who made love there would increase their chances of having children.

The giant has been a magnet for publicity in recent times, being used in various ways to promote jeans, bicycles and even condoms. Local schoolchildren dressed in colourful costumes formed a 'flame' at the top of the giant's club to celebrate the running of the Olympic torch for the 2012 London Games. Even a TV series got in on the act: to publicise *The Simpsons Movie* in 2007, a giant Homer Simpson wielding a doughnut was outlined in biodegradable paint next to the Cerne Abbas giant. Marilyn Monroe also nearly made a symbolic appearance. A plan for a 70-metre high carving of the Hollywood star on the opposite hill, in iconic pose with dress blown up as she stood over a subway grating, was eventually shelved.



POETS' CORNER

Something has brought out the Muse in all of us this month. Possibly the sunshine has had something to do with it, but the overriding theme, unsurprisingly, is coronavirus. Never, perhaps, in the history of mankind has so much been written or discussed by so many about so small an organism! The nice man who wrote the final poem is our Poet Laureate, by the way.

A POEM FOR A CRISIS

I'm normally a social girl; I love to meet my mates,
But lately with the virus here we can't go out the gates.

You see, we are the 'oldies' now, we need to stay inside.
If they haven't seen us for a while, they'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did before we got this old.
There wasn't any Facebook, so not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies who would never be uncouth,
but we grew up in the 60s - if you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll, the pill and miniskirts.
We smoked, we drank, we partied, and were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married. and turned into someone's mum,
somebody's wife, then nana. Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace, because our lives were full,
But to bury us before we're dead is like a red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside for four weeks, maybe more.
I finally found myself again, then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me. I'd while away the hour,
I'd bake for all the family, but I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful. I like a gutsy thriller.
I'm swooning over Idris or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze for when I'm being idle.
There's wine and whiskey, even gin if I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown, to recovery and health,
And hope this bloody virus doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis and be back to join our mates.
Just hoping I'm not far too wide to fit through the flaming gates!

supplied by Jacqui Sewell



LEISURE

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.

No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait, till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

William Henry Davies

The first four couplets in this well-known poem remind us of the stressful world we live in, and how we are disadvantaged when our eyes are closed to the natural world that surrounds us. The next two allude to that much-practised pastime of 'people watching', where the poet notes that in our busy world we may fail to fully appreciate the beauty and nature of another.

Davies was a tramp turned poet, who had a keen eye and love for nature; the poem's message is as relevant today as it was when written in 1911 – or is it?

The current 'lockdown' has found many of us with time on our hands – we've given the house a thorough, old-fashioned Spring clean, worked really hard in the garden (pity your friends cannot call round to admire the results) and cleaned the car for the umpteenth time. But have we set aside "... time to stand and stare"?

What better time to do just that? Presently there are so few vehicles on the road that the emergency vehicles speed by without using their 'blues and twos'; the blanket of traffic noise has been lifted, so now we can appreciate the birdsongs (maybe even try to identify them); and the skies, until recently criss-crossed with vapour trails and polluted with the sound and fumes of jumbo jets, are much clearer: we can see further and breathe purer air.

Being in lockdown means that we have more time to converse with family and friends – perhaps an opportunity to deepen a relationship that may have tired as a result of focusing on work or other external interests?

We eagerly anticipate a speedy return to 'normal', but I rather think our present state of affairs has much to commend it. At least it affords us the opportunity to "stand and stare", so let's now enjoy the world and its people through open eyes!

"A great life this, if now aware,
We still have time to stand and stare"

Malcolm Webster

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

6.4.2020 : O MORTAL MAN!



Palm Sunday seems a distant sunny dream
when you, the puppetmaster, reigned supreme.
Hosanna was the cry when you swept in
with fizzy pop and platitudes and spin.

But look at you now,
the day after:
lacklustre,
a mess!

The donkey's rubbery wheels now hurry you instead
down real life's windowless corridors.

Lank, tired strands of familiar hair, paler than ever, bind the fever tightly in.
Your rattling chest-chains ratchet one more notch.
You grope with slithering fingers for a next breath,
and pass me by.

You have become just another empty plastic bottle
tossed to the tornado to be spat out somewhere else
and not of your choosing.

Anon

FREEDOM

A newt hides under that leaf
he can't stay still for long
as he has places to scoot,
unlike me.

A wren perches on my fence
dips and hops tail held high
she flies across the lane,
leaving me.

A bee shops at a primrose
fills his sacks to the brim
then buzzes heavily away,
unlike me.

A magpie struts his stuff
look at me king of the lawn
next second he is gone,
leaving me.

Hares race across the field
scatter mud leap and dance
tawny streaks through the hedge,
away from me.

A buzzard lifts from a branch
lazily circles an empty sky
thermals take him far away,
unlike me.



Loraine Parnell

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

LOCKDOWN

And I couldn't escape the waking dream of infected fleas
in the warp and weft of soggy cloth by the tailor's hearth
in ye olde Eyam. Then couldn't un-see
the Boundary Stone, that cock-eyed dice with its six dark holes,
thimbles brimming with vinegar wine purging the plagued coins.
Which brought to mind the sorry story of Emmott Syddall and Rowland Torre,
star-crossed lovers on either side of the quarantine line
whose wordless courtship spanned the river till she came no longer.
But slept again, and dreamt this time
of the exiled yaksha sending word to his lost wife on a passing cloud,
a cloud that followed an earthly map of camel trails and cattle tracks,
streams like necklaces, fan-tailed peacocks, painted elephants,
embroidered bedspreads of meadows and hedges,
bamboo forests and snow-hatted peaks, waterfalls, creeks,
the hieroglyphs of wide-winged cranes and the glistening lotus flower after rain,
the air hypnotically see-through, rare,
the journey a ponderous one at times, long and slow but necessarily so.

Simon Armitage

[The boundary stone featured in the poem above was on the demarcation line between Eyam and its plague-free neighbour Stoney Middleton in the valley below. Holes were drilled into it for the inhabitants of Eyam to place vinegar-soaked pennies to pay for supplies. The villagers' mass self-isolation prevented the disease spreading, even though they lost a third of their own population.

Emmott Syddall was an Eyam girl who was in love with Rowland Torre, son of the miller at Stoney Middleton. Soon after the plague broke out, Emmott lost her father, brother and four sisters in quick succession. She tried to persuade Rowland to stop visiting her, but he insisted. The compromise was that they would meet half way, stand on opposite sides of the stream, but neither touch nor even speak to each other. Towards the end of April 1666 Emmott stopped coming. Only when the lockdown was lifted and Rowland could at last get into Eyam did he learn that she too had perished.]

ALL SORTS...

Please note that the floral interludes throughout this section have been kindly supplied by members of Mosterton Gardening Club. First they shared their gardens with each other; now we're grateful that they've chosen to share them with everyone else. Ed.



IN YOUR GARDEN

The garden doesn't know it's in lockdown – in fact, it's breaking all the social distancing rules. In the last month, everything in the borders has been jostling for space, and showing a remarkable vigour, presumably as a result of all that rain earlier in February and early March, and then all this sunshine for the last four weeks or so. It doesn't seem long since there were snowdrops and tiny jewel-coloured primulas, dwarf narcissi and very early tulips. The snakeshead fritillaries are still flowering (just) but now the camassias are taking over, and everywhere there are patches of bluebells. The main season tulips seem to be having a wonderful spring, and the bearded irises are already showing colour. By halfway through May there may even be the first early roses. And this year I shall have a record of this springtime burst of colour in our garden and in the gardens of Mosterton Gardening Club: as a compensation for the cancellation of our March 17 Spring Show, we started to exchange photographs, first of the exhibits we had been hoping to display, and later of other corners of our gardens – a sort of virtual garden visiting. Hopefully we will continue to exchange photos throughout the coming months. I think we are all profoundly thankful that we live surrounded by beautiful countryside, and for the most part have gardens, large, medium or small, in which to enjoy the spring sunshine, the fresh air, and of course the exercise! And of course, this year more than ever it is not just the flowers and blossom which will sustain us – every day I patrol the vegetable beds watching for my precious seeds to show their first green shoots. I remind myself of the advice from past speakers at Mosterton GC about growing vegetables on the patio, in containers, and all year round. Hopefully we'll all be able to put some of their tips into practice. Edibles and flowers (some of which are also edible, of course): food for the body and food for the soul.

Stay safe, stay well, stay sane – keep gardening!

Sue Burnand, Mosterton Gardening Club

PROFOUND QUESTION

If April showers bring May flowers, then what do May flowers bring? (*Answer at the end of this section.*)



THE LAST TRIP OUT

The weekend before all the restrictions and lockdown were put into place I spent a lovely weekend in London with my son and daughter-in-law.

We visited the V & A Museum of Childhood. What a super place it is! Toys and items of childhood from 16th/17th century to the modern day. It is closing down in May for a complete refurbishment which will take approximately two years. I certainly intend to visit it again when it reopens.

We went to three shows. One, *Witness For The Prosecution*, was performed in County Hall. It was great to sit in a real courtroom to watch. You really felt part of the whole thing.

On the Sunday my son was running a half marathon from Tower Bridge to Greenwich Village. The organisation was superb, but the runners, all 1700 of them, were issued with a large see through *plastic* draw-string kit bag containing a bottle of water (*plastic* of course), and as they finished the race they were given a *plastic* medal. We were amazed. Why couldn't they be issued with a fabric, cotton/hessian kit bag and a metal medal? OK, a plastic water bottle is better than glass. He ran a good race and we all had a lovely day, but all this plastic really put a damper on things, especially since both my son and his wife are environment scientists.

Camille Newall

50 YEARS AGO

May 1970 was when the famous 'Bogota bracelet' incident occurred. Bobby Moore, in Colombia for a World Cup warm-up game, was accused of stealing a valuable bracelet from a shop inside the hotel where the England squad had been staying. He was initially allowed to leave the country after protesting his innocence and the matter appeared to be closed, but he was arrested when they all passed back through Bogota a few days later.

The rest of his colleagues had to fly off to Mexico to prepare for their first game, leaving the captain behind under house arrest. It became a major diplomatic and political incident.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson became directly involved because he desperately wanted England to do well so there would be a feel-good factor around the country in the run-up to the General Election.

Moore was eventually freed when his accuser recalled him slipping the bracelet into the left pocket of his blazer, only to be shown in court that the garment in question didn't even *have* a left pocket. He was put on the next plane out of the country and arrived in Mexico in the nick of time.

There were theories at the time that the plan was to weaken England's chances of winning the tournament, but it is now generally believed that it was just a fraudulent attempt by the shop to gain compensation.



CORONAVIRUS SCAMS – BEWARE!

Fraudsters are increasingly targeting the public and organisations with emails, texts, phone calls and WhatsApp messages offering advice and treatment for the coronavirus, as well as setting up fake websites selling products and offering 'cures'. Scammers have also been setting up bogus websites asking for donations for victims or promoting awareness and prevention tips. Cold callers have been contacting organisations suggesting they must have certain measures in place by a certain deadline.

To help members of the public protect themselves from becoming a victim of fraud, the advice from Dorset Council Trading Standards is:

- Be sceptical if you receive an email, text or WhatsApp message about the coronavirus, and never click on any attachments or links
- Never provide personal data such as your full name, address and date of birth – scammers can use this information to steal your identity
- Don't allow yourself to be pressured into donating money, and never make donations by cash or gift card, or send money through transfer agents such as Western Union or Moneygram
- If you think you've been the victim of a scam, then speak to your bank immediately and report any fraud to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040

Further information on dealing with scams and fraud is available from the Citizens Advice Consumer Service at <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer> or by calling their new freephone number 0808 223 1133.

Rebecca Phillips, Trading Standards



JEFFERY'S PUZZLE CORNER

By ruling three straight lines through a circle, can you divide it into seven parts? (*Answer at the end of this section.*)

Jeffery Fraser

100 YEARS AGO

On Saturday 29 May 1920 it rained very hard in Lincolnshire. The Louth Cloudbust, as it came to be known, was one of Great Britain's worst flood disasters of the century. The rains came around tea-time and caused a massive flash flood. Houses were swept away 'like sandcastles', and 23 people, including six children, died in a 20-minute period. In one part of town there was just a single survivor from an entire terrace of twelve properties. The town's Rector recounted the harrowing tale of one particular mother: "The water rose higher, and they actually reached up to the bacon hooks and hung on to them, she supporting her children as best she could. Three of them fell into the flooded kitchen and were drowned before her eyes." 800 people were made homeless. There are four stone plaques set into walls to show how high the floodwaters rose.



BRIDPORT CATHOLIC PARISH

Most people would agree that we are experiencing what has been one of the most difficult times in our lives. The coronavirus has changed everything in so many ways and as we listen to the news it is dominated by sickness and death all around the world. It could be considered the *darkest hour* of the present generation.

Yet in the midst of all that darkness, there has been a tremendous amount of *light*. The threat posed by Covid-19 has been met predominantly by the goodness of so many. That goodness is a reflection of God, who is *Light*. We think of our brilliant NHS, the carers who work in the community and in care homes, those who provide us with those essential services in supermarkets and shops, in making sure our bins are emptied and our streets safe. All these people leave a great trail of *light*. So, too, do those who are going out of their way to care for families, neighbours, the elderly and the vulnerable.

For the disciples of Jesus too there was much *darkness* that first Easter. There is the darkness of betrayal, denial, suffering, death and burial; the darkness of dreams and hopes being shattered and ended. Yet on Easter Day when Mary went to the tomb, someone calls her name and in that simple call Jesus blasts the dark away like a candle being lit in a room that was pitch black. In that moment, we learn that light is stronger than darkness, life is stronger than death and love always triumphs over hate.

Where do we look for light in the darkness? It is to the Risen Jesus who gives us hope for He alone is the Light of the world, the Light that darkness cannot overcome. Like Mary, we know it is true and it needs to be told. The *darkness* has been blasted away in the *light* of Jesus, the Risen One.

Monsignor Keith Mitchell



150 YEARS AGO

Beaminster Square looked rather different in May 1870 when this photograph was taken. The building dominating the right-hand side of the image is the former Market Hall, which included the council chambers, a pub, and butchers' shambles. It was demolished in the 1880s. Other obvious differences are a bygone version of the Red Lion and the entrance to Fleet Street devoid of both scaffolding and security fencing.





LIFE AFTER COVID-19

As we write this, many 'first world' countries are in lockdown due to Covid-19. Millions in the developing world have lived daily for decades with the fear of losing loved ones to disease (or hunger, or conflict) but this is not something wealthy nations are used to experiencing at once – and at all socio-economic levels – as we are witnessing now. There is a lot of fear and overwhelm, and understandably so.

We are also seeing an emerging thirst for change. Our electronic connectedness and access to information is, in our confinement, beginning to translate into wider human connection and the development of ideas. There is a growing awareness that the response to this crisis must not shore up the life-destroying structures that have failed.

The UN's environment chief has called Covid-19 "a clear warning shot" from nature, explaining that pandemics could become more frequent if we return to destructive business-as-usual, because exploitation and destruction of natural habitats and ecosystems upset nature's balance.

Indeed, the climate and ecological crisis already unfolding is the direct result of such disturbance and damage – ecocide – sustained over decades.

At moments like this, the previously politically impossible can become possible. As political writer Naomi Klein and other health and environmental experts highlight, that can cut both ways: towards increased control of citizens and deregulation of industry, or towards greater responsibility and support for people and planet.

Ecocide law is thus a powerful offering right now – an essential part of the discussion on how *not* to return to destructive business-as-usual.

supplied by Jackie Riley

200 YEARS AGO

HMS *Beagle* was launched at Woolwich on Monday 8 May 1820. She was a *Cherokee*-class ten-gun brig-sloop, built at a cost of £7,803. Her most famous passenger was undoubtedly the young Charles Darwin, who set off on the ship's second voyage in 1831, when *Beagle* was under the command of Captain Robert FitzRoy. The first voyage had been rather eventful, even without any celebrities on board. The ship's captain shot himself in a fit of depression and the senior lieutenant took over command. When they eventually docked in Montevideo, he in turn was replaced by 23-year-old FitzRoy.

The new captain, who went on to coin the term 'weather forecast' and to establish what became the Met Office, was related to the Ogländers of Parnham by marriage. His son inherited the estate in 1894, but died at the White Hart Hotel in Beaminster before moving in.



WILD ABOUT WILDE



Henri de Toulouse Lautrec befriended Oscar Wilde when the latter fled to France to escape prosecution for gross indecency in this country. Whilst there, Lautrec did several sketches/portraits of Wilde. Eventually Wilde returned to this country and in May 1895 his trial took place in London.

On the eve of the trial Lautrec was also in England and was due to paint another portrait, but Wilde was too nervous to sit, so when Lautrec returned to his hotel he painted a portrait of his friend from memory. He chose to use the Houses of Parliament as a background to denote that this was done in England.

That was an unfortunate choice, however, because when, at his trial, the judge asked Wilde, "Where is the brothel that you used?", Wilde replied, "In the Houses of Parliament, Your Honour."

Fast forward to 2019 and Oscar Newall, studying this portrait as part of his Art/English work. He (Oscar Newall) then imagined what his namesake (Oscar Wilde) might have said if and when he saw it:

"What on earth is going on with my hair
I'm dark earthy brown, nor blonde
He put huge emphasis on my wrinkles
You could go shopping with those eye bags"

"I have no idea what that dress code is
At least he got my velvet jacket right
Worst is my bow tie. It is challenging to look at
It has no sense of accord"

"My lips are tightly pressed together
It seems he does not like me
He didn't even bother with a decent backdrop
It could have been a theatre (sigh)
It could have been a theatre (sob)"

Camille Newall (poem by Oscar Newall)



250 YEARS AGO

Fourteen-year-old Maria Antonia Josepha Johanna, youngest daughter of the ruler of the Habsburg Empire Maria Theresa, arrived in France from Austria on Monday 14 May 1770 to meet her new husband for the first time. They had been married by proxy the previous month, a tangible demonstration of the new peace between the two countries, and designed to deter any aggression from Britain or Prussia. Once she set foot on French soil she became Marie Antoinette, Dauphine of France. Two days later the two were ceremonially and lavishly married at Versailles, then after a further four years her husband became Louis XVI.

The French Revolution did for them both. Marie Antoinette was guillotined in 1793, aged 37. She almost certainly never said "Let them eat cake", but that's another story.





LETTER FROM (LOCKDOWN) AMERICA

Easter, for one very obvious reason, was a bit different this year. My eldest daughter sent this to me on Easter Day, and I'd like to share it with you:

The very first Easter was not in a crowded worship space with singing and praising. On the very first Easter the disciples were locked in their house. It was dangerous for them to come out. They were afraid. They wanted to believe the good news they heard from the women, that Jesus had risen. But it seemed too good to be true. They were living in a time of such despair and such fear. If they left their homes their lives and the lives of their loved ones might be at risk. Could a miracle really have happened? Could life really have won out over death? Could this time of terror and fear really be coming to an end?

Alone in their homes they dared to believe that hope was possible, that the long night was over and morning had broken, that God's love was the most powerful of all, even though it didn't seem quite real yet. Eventually, when they were able to leave their homes, when the fear and danger had subsided, they went around celebrating and spreading the good news that Jesus was risen and love was the most powerful force on the earth.

This year, we might get to experience a taste of what that first Easter was like, still in our homes daring to believe that hope is on the horizon. Then after a while, when it is safe for all people, when it is the most loving choice, we will come out gathering together, singing and shouting the good news that God brings life out of even death, that love always has the final say!

Kathy Bjorklund



Signs of the times

but do you know where they are?

DORSET DIGITAL HOTLINE

Many people in your local community are likely to be relying on digital online services and applications more than ever before. For some this will be a first and they need to learn from scratch, and for others there are new digital hurdles to overcome almost on a daily basis just to get everyday jobs done such as shopping or ordering prescriptions.

We wanted everyone to know that there is a new free telephone hotline set up in response to the Covid-19 lockdown to provide support for people with IT and digital problems of all kinds. The hotline has received more than 50 calls in the first three weeks.

Here is a selection of some of the support the digital advisers can provide – no problem too small!

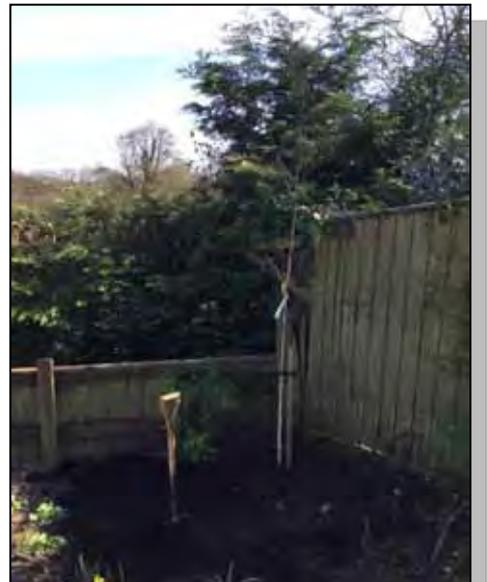
- helping families with digital applications for home schooling
- providing help to get online for home shopping
- support for all digital NHS services and e-Consult
- setting up video calls such as Skype and Facetime to keep in contact with friends and family
- support to use all digital appliances and solve problems
- using digital to exercise at home and keep fit

An example of how the Dorset Digital Hotline can make a difference to people's lives is expressed by one of our digital advisers. Andy Hargreaves, a digital adviser said: "One lady I helped this week uses her iPad to keep in touch with her family via Facetime. She told me that she couldn't hear her family speaking to her clearly on her calls because the sound on the iPad was distorted. I helped her to correct the problem over the phone and soon it was working properly. She said to me that if she wasn't in isolation she would come over and give me a hug because the iPad was her lifeline now to the outside world."

The Dorset Digital Hotline is run by a group of volunteers mostly made up of retired IT professionals and some Dorset Council staff. The team are extremely versatile and experienced and can offer a wide range of support to anyone including assistance to vulnerable people in your community.

Telephone: 01305 221000 (Select Option 2). Monday to Friday 10.00 am to 12.00 noon (except Bank Holidays) or leave a message.

Lyndsey Trinder



WHO ENJOYS READING (AND WRITING ABOUT WHAT THEY'VE JUST READ)?

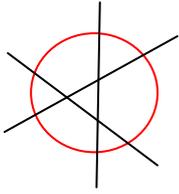
John Montagu has suggested that someone might like to review the following books for a future edition of *Team News*. Both have a connection with Hilfield Friary. The descriptions are John's:

- *Accompaniment, Community and Nature*, Jonathan Herbert 2020
This is how to help or 'accompany' people in need whether in Palestine or Dorset - published in February I think, so an extraordinary anticipation of these troubled times.
- *Running to Resurrection*, Clark Berge 2019
This is by the Guardian at Hilfield, about his struggle with sexual identity and his battle with alcoholism. It has stories of his runs around the world, including Hilfield itself.

RIDICULOUS ANSWER TO PROFOUND QUESTION

Pilgrims. [History note: there were 26 English vessels registered as *Mayflower* during James I's reign. Nobody knows why the name was so popular. Ed.]

PERFECTLY SENSIBLE ANSWER TO JEFFEREY'S PUZZLE



WORDS, WORDS, WORDS...

This document contains 19,848 words. In itself this is probably a meaningless statistic, until, perhaps, you compare it with the official coronavirus death toll in the UK. It's a sobering thought that there are fewer words in this month's *Team News* than lives lost in the pandemic. Or, put another way, every single word you have read is the equivalent of one person who has died so far.

Apart from this postscript, here is a list of words and the total number of times they have occurred in the magazine: virus (30); lockdown (32); cancel (16); Brexit (0); potato (8); despair (1); hope (34).



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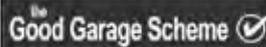
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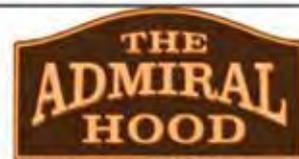


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