



Woolverstone News

April 29th 2020

Dear All

Despite all the gloom surrounding Corona Virus and the process of “lockdown”, the natural world has been putting on a spectacular display to boost our spirits. The weather for the last month has been dry and sunny courtesy of a “blocking high” and the days have been warm and bright; most unseasonal for a month fabled for its April Showers. T S Eliot observed: “April is the cruellest month” but for us it has provided a simply stunning show of blossom from beginning to end, lifting us from the grim diet of daily news bulletins.

With a little more time on our hands it has been easier to watch the delightful procession of spring. We have watched more closely the order of leafing on the trees and the growth of our wayside flowers and their greenery. We have noticed the increasingly frantic activity of birds which have moved from quietly sitting on their eggs to feeding their ravenous chicks. We have observed the increasing number of flying insects, particularly the shiny black St Mark’s fly which appears around 25th April, with their dangling legs and gathering in their hundreds at the edges of woodland, fields, and hedgerows.

As I stood leaning on my spade the other day listening to the handful of skylarks singing their joyous song I found myself thinking what it must have sounded like when the skies were alive with songbirds instead of the scattered handfuls that fly above the fields today. What will our children never know of that we have only glimpsed.

Someone said recently: “In the rush to return to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to.” So true.

Parish News

All public gatherings remain prohibited until further notice. The Parish Council will be undertaking their next meeting by Zoom – if everything works. Fingers crossed. A new date will be set for the Annual Parish meeting when possible.

The VE Day commemorations due on 8th May are postponed; however, people are being encouraged to have their own celebrations at home and to participate in national events on TV and radio.

The Thursday “Clap for Carers” at 8.00 pm has been well supported throughout the village, as was the 1 minute silence for those key workers who have lost their lives to the virus. Our support is really welcomed by those who work in the NHS or carers in the village. Fortuitously, the 8.00 pm coincides with the shift change at Spring Lodge and they hear our support and see people out of their houses recognising their hard work and dedication. I’m told this is much appreciated. One resident in the village has been able to link up a company that was making PPE visors with Spring Lodge and ensure a supply to protect the carers.

Walkers will have noticed that the Woolverstone Marina site is closed to public access. There are signs and barriers in place at various junctions and informal paths onto the site. Ipswich High School site is also closed and our privilege of walking through the grounds and using the tennis court is currently withdrawn. However, the public footpath that runs through the woods from Church Field down to the river remains open and joins the footpath that runs through to Pin Mill.

Vegetable swaps. Mike Deaton has surplus tomato plants which he would normally put outside for sale: *MoneyMaker* and *Tiny Tim*. He has offered these plants for free to people in the village. Please contact Mike if you would like to take advantage of his offer: deaton@hotmail.co.uk

This made me think that there might be others in the same situation. Perhaps we could try a plant swap scheme? It would be such a shame to waste plants. If there are others that would like to offer plants, please get in touch with me and I can email all members of this newsletter group with what is on offer and who to contact. Arrangement for collection, while maintaining social distancing, can be made subsequently by individuals.

I, and others, are concerned that while the number of vehicles on the Main Road is fewer we are suffering from increased speeding through the village, some of which is verging on reckless. I will be in contact with Dave Wood, our County Councillor, and Tim Passmore, Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, expressing my concerns and asking how they propose to reinforce respect for the speed limit through our village as speeding will have become habitual for some during this period. I have asked Councillor Wood to part fund a mobile speed sign but have yet to receive a response. We can help ourselves a bit, though. Some vans and lorries have company names on the side. I have contacted those companies where I have witnessed excess speed through the village. Because of the computer tracking on most commercial vehicles, the companies can note the speed and speak to drivers. The police, of course, will still accept dashcam footage of reckless driving.

I have attached some information to this email that might be of help to those with youngsters at home who are struggling with resources for home schooling during this pandemic and the resultant requirement to “Stay at home”.

SCC plan for our verges to be cut week beginning 25th May.

If there is any other information that I can help with, please get in touch.

Corona Virus or COVID 19.

In the last month everything has changed. We are instructed to **Stay at home and save lives.**

We may only leave home for the following reasons:

- **To shop for essentials** - food, medicine
- **To travel to work** - if working from home is not possible
- **To exercise once a day**, alone or with members of our household.

We must not meet others, even friends. There shouldn't be gatherings of more than 2 people.

We know the drill!

- **Wash your hands regularly**
- Whenever you come back inside, **wash your hands for at least 20 seconds.** Work up a good foam
- **Avoid touching your face**, especially around your nose, eyes or mouth
- **Keep a social distance** of at least two meters from other people

We can help save lives by following our Government's advice

We can help slow the spread of the virus by following our Government's advice

We can help our neighbours by keeping in contact by phone, text, over the fence

Keep in mind neighbours who live on their own and who may be in need of extra company or support at times through this emergency

Remember: There are things we can control and things we cannot control in our lives.

By concentrating on those things we can control we sustain our mental health.

Keep positive. Try not to over-watch the news. Find fun things to do at home. Follow the guidance. Sort out a routine. Be kind and thoughtful towards others.

Woolverstone Neighbourhood Support during the COVID-19 emergency for those who are vulnerable, in self-isolation or shielding

It is essential at this unprecedented time to know there is help at hand if you need it and you are not alone. Within our village we have a team of volunteers who are available to support you if or when needed. All you have to do is contact one of the following villagers and a neighbour 'buddy' will be allocated to you:

Simon Pearce

E: simonpearce@gmx.co.uk T: **01473 780009**

Lorraine Wildbore

E: lorrainewildbore@yahoo.com M: **07748 258693**

Examples of how we can assist you are:

- ✓ **Collecting your prescriptions** from Shotley or Holbrook Surgery
- ✓ **Posting your mail**

- ✓ **Collecting urgent supplies**
 - ✓ **Walking your dog**
- or if you simply want to have a chat over the phone**

If, however, you already have a support system in place via neighbours/family would you also notify us, as it will be reassuring to know you have assistance on hand.

Just to reiterate the official guidelines.....

If you become unwell and unsure about what to do please call the NHS Support Line: 111
Please do not go to your GP, pharmacist or hospital in the first instance unless the NHS Support Line has advised you do so.

We have collated a number of local businesses which may be useful to you during your period of self-isolation – **but the situation may change as demand grows:**

Local service providers - who currently offer a free delivery service to local 'vulnerable' residents whilst stocks are available	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orwell Stores, Chelmondiston Open 8.00 – 12.30 	01473 780221
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hollingsworth's Store & Butchers, Chelmondiston Butcher. Veg. Post Office. Deliveries – order by phone Open 9.00 – 12.00 & 1.0 – 4.00 	01473 780225 Mobile 07402092829
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woody's Butchers, Holbrook Meat, eggs, honey, 90% alcohol hand gel, Antiviral surface cleaner. Open: 9.00 – 4.00 pm 	01473 327835
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stutton Community Shop Open. Mon – Fri 8.30 – 4.00. Sat 9.00 – 12.30. Sun 9.00 – 11.00 We are extending our ordering times which will now be 9-11.30 on Saturday mornings. But if you can, please try and order on a week day, 9-12.30 for delivery or collection in the afternoon. 	01473 328133
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milk & More – only for current account holders 	0345 6063606
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bourne Garden Nursery – are delivering on the Peninsula Try email: clairebgc@hotmail.com 	01473 691567
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tattingstone Garden Centre Bottled gas. Plus click and collect service. 	01473 327777
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglia Produce – fruit and veg boxes in 3 sizes: A - £10, B - £15 & C - £20 	01206 233471

homedeliveries@angliaproduce.com	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shotley's Premier Store Open Mon – Sat 7.00 am – 7.30 pm. Sun 8.00 am – 2.00 pm 	01473 787281
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peninsula Vegan Foods <p>All that incredible fruit n veg for £20! Delivered straight to your door. Same day. For free We've got amazing spring greens, plums, pineapples, pomegranate - it's a tropical paradise! The strawberries, raspberries and blueberries are lush and our luxury fruit box contains a great pick of the bunch! Click and collect is available all day and we're open till 6! Please try to avoid 'browsing' in store as much as possible - it really slows us down!</p>	01473 845099 www.peninsulaveganfoods.com
Or you can phone to order and one of the village volunteers will collect from the following:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffolk Food Hall, Wherstead Open: 9.00 - 4.00 pm Weekdays. Sunday 10.30 – 4.30 pm <p>We are also taking orders, please bear with us on these, it is around 48 hours currently. We're taking orders for Contactless collection too. Place your order with the team through our email at shop@suffolkfoodhall.co.uk and we'll process it ready for you to collect.</p> <p>We've got flour, self-raising, bread and white, plenty of bread fresh from the bakery team, fresh fruit and veg, lots of juices, some frozen fish and of course, a stocked up butchery counter.</p>	01473 786610
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-op in Holbrook 	01473 328214
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bourne End Premier Store, Wherstead Open Well stocked 	01473 601080
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veg at Number Nine Organic veg bags 	07395170654

The following local pubs/restaurants are currently offering take-away meals:

Shotley, "Rose"	01473 787237
Weds, Fri & Sat night. Sun lunch. Group order then happy to deliver.	
Tattingstone, "White Horse"	01473 328060
Stutton "Kings Head"	01473 328898
Order over the phone. Pay over the phone. Collect from the hatch.	
Lasan, Shotley Street	01473 787033/788987
Open 5.00 – 10.00 pm All week. Fish & Chips Fri & Sat 11.30 – 1.30	
Bristol Arms	01473 787200
Open: Thurs – Sun	Phone for times and availability

Dolly's Pizzas. Various locations pre order on 07856070123	
Open: 5.00 – 7.00 pm	
Outrageous Cake Company	01473 786687/ 07805 808 362
Open: Tues – Sat 10.00 – 4.00 pm Orders for collection E.g. brownie trays	
Lucca Enoteca	01206 390044
Bread and Pizza takeaways from 4.00 pm	

This list is constantly changing. It was accurate at the time of writing but may have changed. A good source to keep up to date is the Facebook site "Shaun's Shorts":
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/shorters/>

Some Dates for your Diary:

St Michael's Churchyard team

Fri 1st May During the day

Phil Mayhew cuts the main areas of grass with a ride on mower. However, he can't manage the narrow areas between and around headstones. These have to be done by smaller machines. It is quite possible to maintain social distance and do this work. If you have a mower and would like to contribute by cutting some of this grass that would be great. I will be there in the afternoon, weather permitting, on the Friday but if you wanted to help, anytime would do.

Parish Council Meeting

Thurs 14th May 7.30 pm

This will take place by video link.

If there is anything urgent, please contact me simonrpearce@gmx.co.uk or 07825708171. The PC will stay in touch with each other via email or phone.

Sunday Services at St Michael's.

Due to the Corona virus, St Michael's will have no services until further notice and the church building is closed on instruction of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

Revd. Jenny, our rector, and Duncan Myatt, our churchwarden, have the following message:

"Whilst the current restrictions are in place the Church Building may be closed but the Rector and Ministry Team are thinking and praying for all our villages. The Rector, Revd. Jenny Seggar would be more than happy to ring any residents for a chat while the crisis is ongoing.

We have also launched a new web site; tworiversbenefice.org which contains up to date information, a recording of Sunday's Morning Prayer, links to other recorded services and prayers for personal use. We also have a children's page with some suggested links. The Rector can also be found on Facebook at 'Two Rivers Rectory'."

The Revd. Jenny can be contacted on 01473 327951 or email rector2rivers@outlook.com

Duncan Myatt the Churchwarden and Lay Elder can be contacted on 01473 781969 or email duncan.myatt@gmail.com

Revd.Jenny added:

"I will be praying for Woolverstone on a Tuesday, and would be happy to ring Woolverstone folk on that day."

Local History

Have you looked at Woolverstone's Facebook page yet? If not, stop by and see how it is growing. This month we have added: a delightful April Fool's Day prank; a photo of Winston Pottle heaving grain bags; a photo of No 5 Harkstead lane; local information on the memorial in the churchyard to Emma and Henry Rush; some detective work in the churchyard on the grave of Stephen Pain; a photo of Freddie Lawson's marriage to Gwen Austin; and, a photo of Rose and William Austin outside No 20 Widows Homes in 1970.

Our membership has topped the 200 mark reaching 218! Why not join and scroll through the information and contribute your local knowledge, too? Join the conversation! Our Facebook page is called: Woolverstone: Notes and Queries. Here's the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2044317292447243/>

Climate and Wildlife Emergency

It is all very well discussing the Climate and Wildlife Emergency we are facing but we have to do something about it, practically.

TIP: We have got used to driving a lot less during this pandemic. Many have taken to bicycles to make those *essential* journeys. Shopping patterns have changed. Deliveries from local shops with local produce have increased cutting food miles. Is it worth thinking now about how to ensure our car usage does not return to pre CORVID19 levels when we have got through this challenging period?

Helping our Community

Our community is stretched out in a ribbon settlement, mostly along the B1456. People at No 1 are over a mile away from people at No 38. It is hard to stay connected. One of the ways to keep connected is through supporting local events, meeting and catching up with people. I hope you will be able to support the village through the different events that have been organised. We also need your help for some of the jobs that keep the community ticking away.

If you know someone who would like to be on the mailing list please ask them to send me an email to the address below and I will add them to the group email list. Many thanks.

If your neighbour is not on the internet, why not print off a copy and pop it through their letterbox?

Best wishes. Stay Safe. Keep your distance.

Simon Pearce. Chairman, Woolverstone Parish Council (780009. simonpearce@gmx.co.uk)