



# Culworth Newsletter

June/July 2020

## Lockdown in Culworth

Lockdown has forced us to spend much more time in Culworth than many of us ever expected to. This period of enforced isolation will doubtless have proved difficult, particularly for those mandated to remain indoors and entertained solely by the increasingly dreary diatribe of daytime television. However, this time has also allowed for a period of reflection on what are the most essential things in our lives as well as perhaps finally get on top of those nagging items on the "To do" list. Plus without the demands of school runs and commutes, the flow of traffic through the village has dropped dramatically as well as fewer planes spotted flying overhead. Add in the lockdown coinciding with weeks of fine spring weather and the birds seem to be singing louder than ever to celebrate this renewed appreciation of nature. By now the bulk of our summer migrants have arrived from foreign climes, with the swallows and house martins returning to old haunts.

The fabulous weather has also provided the perfect encouragement to garden with the early weeks of lockdown supported by deliveries from local garden centres until they reopened earlier this month. Frustratingly for allotment holders, lots of that hard work has gone to waste with Monday's sharp frost causing the loss of the bulk of carefully tendered vegetables.

In the daily exercise, footpaths and bridleways have been much used allowing residents to explore unknown parts of the village. These walks have also provided the opportunity to meet other residents, at the approved social distance of course. The boom in cycling has been further energised in the last few weeks with many people rustling around at the back of sheds and garages to dust down bicycles that haven't seen the light of day in years. Culworth's own Catherine Ruffley of British Cycling, reminds me that cycles need annual service checks just like our cars, so do consider getting your steed checked over to ensure it is actually "trusty" after all.

The Northamptonshire air of Culworth is far cleaner than the London smog many of our residents flock to

in "normal times" with the lichen on the gravestones proof of this. Equally the wide-open spaces that surround the village ensure there is plenty of space for us to walk, run, cycle or ride without bumping into other people. Have you walked round Berry Hill Close admiring the site of Culworth Castle or noted the splendid long view from the church overlooking the valley, or from the allotments towards Eydon? Getting out of the house daily for some form of exercise is essential for both the physical and mental health benefits it provides.

Spring is of course the time of new arrivals and Culworth has been no different with four new families arriving since early March to the village. Welcome to you all.

The majority of shops may be closed but in Culworth the wonderful Mumfords remain open, working long hours to supply as much of our needs as possible and delivering groceries to many. Who thought there would be queues outside their shop extending to the other side of the road to provide safe distances?

Forge Coffee has been repurposed to be a centre point for gardening deliveries and offers a weekly order collection service for fruit and vegetables, bread, cheese, milk, yogurt and seasonal supplies all locally sourced.

John postman and his colleagues deliver our mail faithfully. An enormous amount of delivery vehicles tour the village daily with unnumbered houses making life difficult to find the property. Do we all know the names of the houses to guide them?

Milk and More and newsagents from Woodford Halse and Nick Smith with reliable Margaret delivering papers have kept us in the written news with the plethora of quizzes and puzzles and our favourite magazines to keep our brains going. Unlike many districts, SNC has maintained weekly bin collections.

Life has undoubtedly been more challenging and difficult in the last few weeks but one thing remains clear that Culworth offers much to be proud of so let's ensure we keep working together to support and protect those local things we've valued more dearly than ever.

Jose Rowlings

## Resources for help

There is a Facebook group for those in the village who are online. Please join the Culworth Covid19 support group for updates and to reach out for or offer help to others in the community.

Other pages to follow on Facebook are the Culworth village page and the Culworth community pages group for local information.

Of course, not everybody in the village will have access to technology so please if you know someone who may be isolated during this time a visit or phone call to check everything is okay will mean a lot.

If you have to self-isolate, we have put together a list of contact telephone numbers of people around the village willing to help or for a chat if needed.

Stuart Rolt 01295768353 10-5  
Peter Coville 01295760807 Mon-Thur any time.  
Lorna Edwards 07899 347671 Anytime  
Caroline Thom 07793891783 Evenings  
Polly Howard 01295 768700 between 10am and 8pm  
Michelle Koster 01295760119 between 5pm and 7pm  
Carolyn and Robert MacKenzie 01295760553 between 10 and 4pm  
Anna Callow 07950950418 anytime  
Lucy Koster 07850499712 all the time apart from Tuesday 5-6pm  
Wednesday 3-4pm and 6.30pm - 7.30pm  
Cindy Lika 07881456863 not on Thursdays  
Emily Collins 07710271531 most of the time  
Ed and Danielle Frewin between 9-5 on 01295 768757  
Ewan McCombe 07980 917566 (evenings and weekends)  
Nicole and Justin Thurgur - 01295768636 -one or the other of us is around most of the time during the day.  
Peter and Denise Medhurst Tel 01295 760062 Contact Anytime.  
Lesley Fernández-Armesto 01295 768645 7.30am - 10.30am  
Andrea Brereton 07775 426789 between 2pm and 4pm.  
Emma Canning 01295760510  
Lydia May 07554418810 works shifts but can normally answer phone all hours  
Amanda McCree 07898218363 anytime  
John Mc Cree 07913587005 anytime  
Ian Simonsen 01295760371/07725485830 anytime  
Kate Smith 07552234299 9am- 4pm  
Vicky Swift & Jim Gosling 01295 768524.  
Sarah Powell 07974 934587  
Ros Locke 07885771268 between 8am-8pm

It is important that we all help each other out during this time in any way that we can. We will all need to work together as a community over the next few weeks to keep each other safe.

Emily Collins

## Update from Culworth Primary - a parents view

While the building at Culworth Primary School has been closed to most, staff and children have been busy working and learning from home. We have had stories read by teachers online, handwriting tutorials via the school website, weekly learning plans for each class and our usual Tuesday art lessons from Mrs Nichols.

Our boys, in year two and reception, have been enjoying weekly zoom call with their class friends. The year two children have been taking turns to host a quiz and have enjoyed a couple of Japanese language lessons, from an ex Culworth pupil who is now at Chenderit. The reception class calls have included a story from their teacher, a tricky words bingo game, but has been mostly show and tell led by the children.

Amongst our wonderful art lessons, we were set a 30-day Art challenge, which is something anyone can do. You can use any media, coloured pencils, paints, felt pens, collage, whatever you have at home.

Do small square drawings of various subjects 5 x 5cms and after 30 days, stick them together in a grid, 5 across x 6 down. You could use a sheet of newspaper to stick them on or a piece of a cardboard box.

There has been lots of work shared on our Facebook page of other pupils work that they have completed during this time, but I thought I would share the poem below written about the war.

Emma Hall

### War Poem

In a cold, dark, damp trench  
soldiers just ignored the stench.  
Nothing to be seen but grey cold sky  
and people who are about to die.  
Fear on many soldiers faces  
because war was spreading to lots of places.  
Wishing that we were free  
but thinking it was not to be.  
Some would just sit and cry  
whilst others watched the days go by.  
How many weeks till this is done?  
How many weeks till I see home?

By Grace Nichols Wood Age 9  
Culworth Primary Academy

## News from St Mary's

Once again, thank you to everyone who have so generously supported our appeal for the roof, and continue to do so.



The roof as you will all have seen is startling bright and new. Hopefully it will mellow in time but at the moment looks a little like an Anthony Gormley inspired piece of modern architecture, which as a 21st Century addition to our 12th century church it not entirely incongruous. We were extremely lucky that the contractors were able to work all through the lock down. The work has been to a very high standard. When we have a final bill and have received the promised grants, we will put a notice up in the church notice board to let you all know the financial outcome. We have been extremely lucky in the generosity of people in and out of the village and hope in the not too distant future to be able to hold a service of thanksgiving.

The prospect of opening the church at the moment is not very promising. On the whole we have to abide by directions from the Bishop of Peterborough and although we have been told to 'Be Alert' and use our common sense, we are still unable to keep the church open even for private prayer. However, the churchyard is free for everyone to come and sit in private contemplation, enjoy the wild flowers, the bird song and the views.

In the meantime, if you would like to help with a little spring clean, please ring Jose. (01295 768110) She will give you a list of things that need to be done, will arrange for the church to be open and keeping to the appropriate social distancing we should hopefully be abiding by the rules.

We continue to be grateful for those who are keeping the churchyard grass cut. June will be tidying the borders soon. I also hope you all enjoyed and appreciated Amanda's floral tributes outside the church.

I have a few tomato plants and also some streptocarpus plants for just a small donation to the church roof fund. Just give me a ring (01295 768110) or email [jenny\\_howse@hotmail.com](mailto:jenny_howse@hotmail.com) and I'll bring them round.

## VE day in Culworth

I understand that in 1945 there was a party in the village hall including fancy dress of homemade outfits, Rev Murdin led a service of thanksgiving in the church. There was a large bonfire but am not sure where. It is amazing that after rationing, which was ongoing, there was a plentiful supply of delicious food for all to enjoy.

People dressed up.

This year the Celebration had to be limited to street parties with social distancing.



When lockdown is over there can be a party to celebrate and give thanks.







Thank you to all those volunteers who help with shopping, prescription collection and ringing their neighbours. Please don't wait to be telephoned but telephone family and friends to keep in touch.  
Jose Rowlings

### **Culworth Snappers**

Although we have not been able to have our normal monthly get togethers, the camera club members have been keeping in touch using zoom. We have had 3 hook ups, featuring "Using Lightroom" and discussing the images from the monthly topics. During lockdown we have had 2 topics of "In The Home" and "Garden Flowers" which have kept the creative juices flowing. This month's topic is "Animals"

If anyone is interested in joining the club or wishes to send in images for this month's topic, please contact John on 07867918960 or [johnemmett5@gmail.com](mailto:johnemmett5@gmail.com)  
The next zoom hook up will be on Thursday 18th June at 19.30 hrs

### **Local Business information**

#### **David Mumford Butcher's**

David Mumford Butcher's is still operating, and his vans can still be seen visiting all the local villages. The shop in Culworth is also open, although only allowing one person in the shop at a time. The Mumfords are taking a well-deserved week off from 23<sup>rd</sup> May until Monday June 1st.

#### **From Forge Coffee**

With Forge Coffee unfortunately temporarily closed as a coffee shop, we've repurposed the site to operate a weekly food order collection service. We offer milk and yoghurts from Appletree Dairy in Chipping Warden, cheese from Fowlers of Earslwood, a range of bread, focaccia and swirls from Real Artisan Bread in

Westbury, fruit and veg boxes from Garry Penn, flowers from Suzy Cubitt-O'Neill of From Garden to Vase, peashoots and sunflower shoots from Magnificent Microgreens in Launton, traybakes from Fannie Annes, Salty Dog crisps and nuts as well as retail bags of our coffee beans to ensure you still get your caffeine fix until we're back to a full service again. Orders need to be sent to [info@forgecoffee.co.uk](mailto:info@forgecoffee.co.uk) by close of business on Mondays for collection on Fridays between 10am and 11am with payment by card when you pick up your goods. Thanks for all your support since we opened and we can't wait to once again be serving you the best coffee in the county!  
Best wishes, Rupert

### **learn 2 Drive**

Due to the nature of my business and the close proximity to clients Driving instruction is going to be one of the last businesses to become fully up and running.

There is going to be a huge back log of work to get through. I had several students with tests booked in March-April and May all have been suspended until the driving test centre's open.

There is no news from the Driving Standards Agency when this will happen. However, when it does those students at or near test will get priority, then those who have already passed the theory test.

Learn 2 Drive is looking to the future and now with my Daughter recently qualifying as a driving instructor and coming into business with me.

We will be taking on new clients as soon as we are able to.

Unfortunately, those who turned 17 during the lockdown will be unlikely to have a practical driving test this side of Christmas.

Ian Simonsen, Learn 2 Drive

#### **T'ai Chi Chih**

T'ai Chi Chih sessions are continuing virtually three times a week. Contact Laurin directly for more information: 07887 404812

#### **From Garden to Vase**

Suzy at From Garden to Vase our very own flower grower/florist located in the village is busy growing flowers for every occasion. You can place orders via her website [www.fromgardentovase.co.uk](http://www.fromgardentovase.co.uk)

#### **Dog news**

Yes, as usual, there are issues with dog mess in the village. By the time you read this, there should be new signs around the village, put up by our resident dog-



walker, Kirsty Hawkins. Kirsty is once again able to take dogs out for walks, but only one at a time at the moment.

Please pick up after your dog.

## Village Hall Report

(as would have been presented at the Annual Parish Assembly)

At the AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> November last year, all of the representatives and trustees agreed to stand again. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary were re-elected. Kirsty Hawkins joined the Committee.

Michelle Koster resigned her position on the Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 as representative of the Parish Council due to time constraints. There being no Parish Council representative, Martin Rowling took on the role for the time being.

Since the last Parish Assembly work has continued on the new community building project. SNC granted planning permission in December 2019 and the CHFT is now focusing on finding the necessary funding.

The Village Hall Committee has been trying to fix a date to hold the Public Meeting to gain village consent to sell the current Village Hall site conditional on the new building being finished and operational. However, this has been put on hold due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus and the restrictions imposed on gatherings.

At the beginning of this year we updated all of our policies – Risk Assessment, Health & Safety Policy, Equal Opportunity Policy and a Vulnerable Persons Policy was set up.

Regular fixtures such as film nights, coffee and chat, pilates, circle dancing, Tai Chi, Snappers Photography Club and Village café have contributed valuable funds to the upkeep of the Hall. They are also a way of getting people together. Jenny Howse organised two Frugal lunches in March and April. The March lunch went ahead raising approx. £140 of valuable funds for Banbury Food Bank. The April lunch was cancelled. She also organised a Lent quiz which raised approx. £120 which was split between the Church and Village Hall.

There was no Village Fete in 2019 but plans are in motion for one to be held this year on 13<sup>th</sup> September in conjunction with the Fun Run organised by Rupert Rowling.

The Committee agreed not to increase the hiring rates for the Hall this year. The Hall remains a popular, well-appointed venue and an asset to the community.

The occurrence of the Coronavirus in the last few months has meant that all activities in the Hall have been cancelled until further notice. This will inevitably impact on the income for the Hall and on everyone's life, but we sincerely hope that we can reinstate the classes and social gatherings in the not too distant future.

## CHFT New Recreational and Community Facility Progress Update, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

Not much has changed since our last update in April. We continue to look beyond the Coronavirus pandemic and our efforts remain focused on fund raising. The difficult economic situation has led to many potential sources of funds closing their doors in the short term. Our initial Expression of Interest to the Lottery Fund was not successful, although they have not ruled out helping us in the future.

We will be submitting our third application to SNC for a grant, this time for the smaller sum of £150k, by the end of May. The date of the next SNC Grants Panel meeting has not yet been fixed. We also are continuing to work on our application to Sports England for £150k, which is likely to be submitted around the end of July. We also plan to submit an application to The London Marathon in the summer.

The VHT have agreed to serve the necessary notices and hold the public meeting, to agree to the sale of the existing village hall site, as soon as practically possible, in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic. A positive result will demonstrate continued support from villagers for the project.

This is an exciting one-off opportunity for the village to get a new community and recreational facility, that will be able to provide an extended range of recreational, social and sporting activities, and will serve current and future generations.

Community facilities in rural areas are likely to become increasingly important, post the Coronavirus pandemic, for the provision of essential services. Thank you once again; your wholehearted support for this project is essential for us to get this done. We will keep you updated.

John Duggan, Chair CHFT

## An article about Ammo Jewellery

This article was originally written for wrote for the 40th anniversary exhibition at Chenderit Secondary in 2019. Madeline says that she has 'come back to culworth is mainly to be near my father, but also to launch my online jewellery business in England to support my Cambodian artisans. Because of covid-19 - all our retail outlets in Cambodia have closed (as there are no tourists visiting the country for the foreseeable future).

So to raise funds for my social enterprise (ammo jewellery) - I'd love to encourage the culworth community to check out my Etsy shop, as I have brought all the products here and can hand deliver in the village, or post items as gifts. The proceeds of which go back to Cambodia.

ETSY SHOP: <https://etsy.me/3e7Gn3C>



Founded by Madeline Green  
[www.ammojewellery.com](http://www.ammojewellery.com)

I am a jewellery designer, and the founder and owner of Ammo Social Enterprise, Cambodia. Working primarily in social business development, I am a design consultant for local artisans, International NGO's and commercial clients. I am passionate about good design, ethical fashion and sharing Cambodian craftsmanship with the world!

My early inspirations in life came from my father Malcolm Green, who was a silversmith and designer, and part of the team at Canons Ashby, Northamptonshire that made Prince Charles coronation crown. My childhood was also filled with creative projects and gallery visits with my late mother Valerie Whitaker. At Chenderit School, Mr Childs and other design teachers really inspired my inquisitive mind, and I was the most enthusiastic and well behaved (unlike other subjects) in these lessons! I loved screen printing in Textile Design, and creating models in wood and metal in Design Technology. It was here that my journey towards a creative career began, and I am most grateful to Chenderit and Mr.Childs in particular.

After graduating, I gained a place at Cherwell Valley College in Banbury, where I studied Art and Design BTEC. Within the two years of study, I became

fascinated by jewellery techniques and experimenting with different materials. Although quite a wild-child in those years, I was lucky to obtain a place at Manchester Metropolitan University studying a BA HONS in 3-D Design, where I spent many long glorious days in the glassblowing studio, and intense sessions in the metal workshops spinning pewter, and forming in copper and silver.

Following the completion of the three year degree, I exhibited my work in London, and an extremely lucky chance meeting with Oxfordshire Jeweller Lucy Sylvester (also exhibiting in this show), changed my future! For years after, I shared jewellery studios with Lucy, and learnt a great deal under her mentorship. In this time, I also worked as a freelance a co-ordinator for Oxfordshire Artweeks, a large art festival, representing hundreds of artists from a wide range of disciplines.

In 2010, I began travelling South East Asia, and again, a chance meeting with a jewellery designer in Cambodia changed my life once more! Volunteering with her social enterprise training young people how to recycle brass bullets and making traditional Khmer jewellery designs. The talented locals taught me so many techniques and skills in business, that I felt it only right to create more opportunities for the growing population of young, disadvantaged and disabled Cambodians in Siem Reap. In 2013, I set up my own Ammo social enterprise, and funded a purpose built jewellery workshop, offering vocational training and sustainable employment. Since then, we have trained eight young Cambodians to become jewellers (including three female jewellers). Four of the staff now also have their own collections of jewellery, selling locally and internationally.

The pieces in this show are a collaborative project between Madeline and the Ammo team, and an esteemed Cambodian wood carver named CHHAY Saron. The feminine face of DEVA, and more masculine ASURA are to represent the duality of good and evil, often displayed in relief carvings in the Angkorian Temples, and in Hindu mythology. The concept behind the work bears additional depth with Sarons background as a soldier. The bullets that adorn the pieces also represent both the troubles of the past, but also of revival and new opportunities that are possible for the next generation of Cambodians.

My jewellers and managers are working towards self-sustainability, so we are always looking for support, both to buy tools and equipment for them to set up their own businesses, and to provide them with training and travel opportunities. If you would like to support our project, you can contact me to find out



more about how to get involved through our sponsor opportunities and by purchasing our jewellery collections (via international our website or our UK distributor). Thank you from all the team at Ammo!

Madeline Green

## CULWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020  
at 7pm in Forge Coffee OX17 2AZ

1. Councillors present S. Rolt Chair, A. Wilby, D. Mumford, M. Rowling, B. Leadbeater. The Clerk Mrs J. Rowling was in attendance
2. Apologies for absence Cllr Koster (work) Cllr Guinness (illness)
3. Members of public present None
4. OPEN MEETING- No public present
5. Declarations of interest from Councillors on Agenda items- None
6. Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020 confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman
7. Matters arising not on agenda- none
8. Clerks notices
  - a. Screen, stand, projector received from SNC for electronic planning. Clerk to attend training on 13<sup>th</sup> March at SNC
  - b. Engine Room Tour at NCC 1 Angel Square Northampton on 28<sup>th</sup> February. Brief report given.  
<https://futurenorthantswest.org/> will be updated regularly
  - c. Highway issues reported
    - i. Water overflowing drains in Barley Hill across the road to Sulgrave Road. Jetting gang found collapsed drain which has been reported.
    - ii. Banbury Lane near Culworth Garage- road Culvert below garage blocked. Thanks to residents. Fix my street will repair within one month.
    - iii. Drift road passed Fulford Farm- potholes
  - d. Street lights – one for repair- now repaired
  - e. Foliage blocking some lights still persists.
  - f. Highway trees and overhead cables reported to Western Power. Little progress.
  - g. Defibrillator checked. Now on EMAS website. Local course for emergency resuscitation in Village Hall on

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 10-12 Cost £10 per person. Spaces available.

- h. Older residents birthday- letter of thanks received for card and flowers.
  - i. Retirement of milkman- card and cash donations £100 from residents delivered to him.
9. Parish Elections Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Notice on board for timetable for interested persons. Interested parties invitation to attend SNC 12 March at 6.30pm. Further details will be posted on Noticeboard, email and website. NOTE- due to election count being carried out on Monday 11<sup>th</sup>, May AGM and first meeting of new Council will be moved to Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm.
  10. Culworth Hill Field Trust update- for newsletter
  11. Annual Parish Assembly MONDAY APRIL 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Village Hall. Ms Caryl Billingham MBE will speak on the Brackley Community Hospital. HS2 updates. Byfield Medical Centre updates. Report from District Councillor and County Councillor. Report from Village organisations, Report from Local Charity.
  12. Local Government reorganisation. Shadow Authority in post from May 2020.
  13. Mowing contract and regime submitted by Cartwright Landscapes was approved.
  14. Weed control contract. No increase from last year. Contract accepted.
  15. HS2 Update Cllr Rolt. MP Andrea Leadsom toured the route of HS2 on 9<sup>th</sup> March and welcomed speaking to those affected. All householders aware of new sites from Magpie to Marston crossroads.
  16. Website- Clerk to upload Parish Council documents
  17. Parking issues- letter from resident. Clerk to refer to NCC and Local police. Resident to be advised of Parish Council action
  18. Litter Pick Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> 10am The Forge. Cllr Rowling reported and enthusiastic response. Less litter collected due to the diligence of one resident who litterpicks daily.
  19. **Urgent- Trees in Berry Hill Close-** Cllr Mumford reported on fallen branch into a property luckily causing no damage. Tree Profiles will provide a quotation for removal of dangerous limbs.
  20. FINANCE
    - i. Report from Internal Controller and Internal Auditor- accounts checked. Noted that Western Power cheque for £5.10 has not been credited. New cheque to be issued.

- ii. Precept request forwarded to SNC £23730 in January and acknowledged.
- iii. Receipts- None
- iv. Payments since last meeting
  - 1. Aylesbury Mains Ltd. Street light repairs light 13,23 and corner of sulgrave road £409.80+£81.96 VAT £81.96=£491.76(001040)BL/DM
  - 2. DD Ionos website February £12.99+£2.60 VAT=15.59
  - 3. Aylesbury Mains Ltd repair light Eydon End replace photostar£73.70+£14.74=£88.44(001041)D M/BL
  - 4. Texprep printing,paper, documents and newsletter£189.84+£2.15=£191.99(001042)D M/BL
  - 5. Clerks salary and expenses of office Jan – Mar£1281.36(001043) BL/DM
  - 6. HMRC last quarter £260(01044) BL/DM
  - 7. Culworth Parish Church (Sect 137) £2000 for roof repairs (01045)BL/DM
  - 8. Culworth Parish Church for meeting 4<sup>th</sup> February £9(01046)BL/DM
  - 9. Mrs S Trott Lease of Land for 2020-21=£25(01047) BL/DM
  - 10. Wave for cricket field £12.07(01048)BL/DM
- b. Current Account£12181.58
- c. Deposit Account £9147.68

## 21. PLANNING

- a. Applications from SNC
  - i. S/2020/0150/FUL Agricultural Barn Tithe Hall High Street OX17 2BE- Parish Council comments- PC surprised at application for agricultural

- barn in open countryside for which there seems to be no apparent justification. Parish Council objects to application
- ii. S/2020/0202/TCA Removal of dying Beech and to replace it with a semi-mature (3-4m) tree of the same species. Wheatsheaf Barn OX17 2AX- noted
- iii. S/2020/0286/LBC and 285/FUL Form new door into garage. Removal of low yard wall and extension of gravel surface . Westhill House OX17 2BE- Parish Council comments- it would appear to be retrospective. No comments

- 22. Correspondence mostly emailed
  - a. Clerks councils direct magazine.
- 23. Any other business for May meeting
- 24. Farewell to those Councillors not standing- Not given
- 25. **NEXT meeting TUESDAY19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020 AT 7PM IN FORGE COFFEE. AGM AND GENERAL MEETING**
- 26. Meeting closed 8.30pm

## Brackley Community Hospital

As the season of Annual Parish Meetings was approaching, I have to admit that I was very much looking forward to visiting so many of our local villages whose residents are patients of one of the two Brackley GP surgeries. I had intended to show the plans for the new Community Hospital and update you on the progress with fund-raising towards those items which are “over and above” standard NHS issue but which will help to make anybody’s time, however short or however long, in the new building an even nicer experience than it might otherwise be.

The building was scheduled to be finished by the end of May with fitting out anticipated to take some four to six weeks after that. Although some work on a limited scale continues at the site, this is dependent on the type of work. If a workman can operate alone or whilst maintaining the necessary social distancing, then the work can proceed – if not, well, you know the answer.

All fund-raising activity has necessarily come to a halt and events are being mothballed to be resurrected, with plans to be finalised, once “normal service is resumed”.

So, to update you on the building itself, the Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust



(better known as the “NHS”) will be renting space for consulting rooms for visiting specialists; this will save many local residents trekking into Oxford and Northampton with their accompanying difficulties of heavy traffic and parking. There will also be a physiotherapy unit, podiatry, occupational health, some rooms to be used for wellbeing pursuits and health charities, and there will be a café on the ground floor. The second floor will be home to 16 intermediate care beds: these will be essentially “step-down” beds. I see these being used quite often if a patient is well enough to be moved from the acute care of one of our larger hospitals but not yet well or able enough to be discharged back to their home. They can also be used for a step-up purpose: building somebody up prior to major surgery, for example. Additionally, they will provide a facility for respite care and for end-of-life palliative care. There will be a family room for visitors to stay if appropriate, and there will be a kitchen and dining-room – all meals will be freshly cooked, a legacy from the old Cottage Hospital which the NHS was determined to continue. There will be a pharmacy on site.

The Brackley Medical Centre (formerly Washington House Surgery and Brackley Health Centre) will be moving, lock, stock and barrel, into the new building. They will have consulting rooms and reception on the ground floor with some administrative functions in rooms on the first floor. Their walk-in clinic facility will continue on this site. Springfield Surgery is remaining at its premises just off Pavillons Way: there are some negotiations ongoing as to whether the walk-in facility may have extended hours at which point it would become available to all patients of both practices (Springfield has its own system while the building is open).

But, rest assured, every NHS facility within the building will be there for any patient of either GP practice – and may even attract more from, for instance, Silverstone and Greens Norton.

Onto the money side, some of the things that we are seeking to contribute towards are:

- A digital state-of-the-art X-ray machine which will give better and faster results, but at a very high cost. This is estimated to cost £165,000 and is our initial target. The NHS will put in an x-ray machine but their funding would allow only a rudimentary model which would ‘do the job’ – eventually. Public fundraising can ensure something better for all our local residents.
- An ultra-sound scanner at a cost of approximately £40,000. Again, this would save the journeys to other hospitals and free up

facilities which are going to be seeing increased demand as the housebuilding programmes continue and all our towns grow ever larger.

- Ideally, on the basis that many of the patients will be elderly, relatively infirm and not overly mobile, the NHS would like special, electrically-operated, rise-and-fall, recliner armchairs. These have a great therapeutic benefit alongside the psychological benefit of being out of the bed for long periods of the day. They do not, however, come cheap and cost around £2,500 each once the full specification has been taken into account. One for each room and that’s another £40,000 on our list.
- It would be good to have a few, more basic, recliner chairs which could be moved from room to room and would enable a family member or friend to stay overnight with a patient who was near end of life. It is envisaged that these would cost about £1,000 each and that four would be adequate. Peanuts really, in comparison, but another £4,000 nonetheless.
- Finally, we would like to see a television set in each of the 16 rooms. These will not only offer entertainment for the patients but would be Smart TVs so they would have Skype and Facetime facilities enabling families to keep in touch with their loved ones, even if they are unable to travel to and from the hospital. The anticipated cost of one of these sets is £500; it is higher than you would have expected because there is a desire to make them compatible with the NHS Pathway which would ensure confidential discussions to take place remotely between consultant, patient and family. We are therefore looking at £8,000 here. It is important to add that these TV sets will be free to view.

It all stacks up quite alarmingly, but we are doing well so far. We have a thermometer on our website and the figure raised to date as at 10 April is £122,357, so we are three-quarters of the way towards our initial target. This has been boosted by some excellent fund-raising events and some very generous personal donations, but principally by a pledge of £95,000 from the Brackley Hospital Trust: this is the charity that was set up in 1991 to run the old Cottage Hospital and it was agreed that their residual funds, after closure, would in due course be used towards equipment for the new Community Hospital.

I had planned a ‘sales pitch’ for the Annual Parish Meetings. I appreciate that the sums mentioned

above can seem quite overwhelming and totally out of reach, especially for a relatively small village. They are difficult to get your head round even in Brackley, which now has a population approaching 17,000. However, I was hoping to reduce it into bite-sized chunks and I was going to ask each village whether they would consider organising one community event within the village with a specific target of raising £500 towards the new hospital. If 16 villages were able to do that, that would purchase all the TV sets in one fell swoop, and I know that several villages already had plans which have had to be put on hold.

I would therefore ask if you could consider taking on this challenge once we are all up and running again and help to make the new Brackley Community Hospital a facility in which we can all take pride, from which we can all benefit and in which we all have a sense of ownership.

The Brackley Community Hospital 2020 Trust is a charity that was set up specially to manage the publicly raised funds. Trustees will be happy to support your fund-raising events in whatever way they can – even if we are only required to offer a presence and answer any questions that may arise.

Your support is greatly appreciated, and I am happy to hear from any of you at any time.

Thank you.

Caryl Billingham MBE

Chairman, Brackley Community Hospital 2020 Trust  
(registered number 1185445)

7 Bridgewater Rise, Brackley, NN13 6DA,  
[caryl@billingham-brackley.com](mailto:caryl@billingham-brackley.com)

## **GRANT OF PREMISES LICENCE**

Notice of Application under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Rupert Rowling of Forge Coffee, High Street, Culworth OX17 2AZ proposes to licence the premises for the sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises. Representations can be made in writing by June 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 to The Licensing Authority, The Forum, Moat Lane, Towcester, NN12 6AD Tel: 01327 322278, e-mail: [licensing@southnorthants.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@southnorthants.gov.uk) web: [www.southnorthants.gov.uk](http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk). Full details of the application can be inspected **by appointment** at the address above. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction of the offence is not exceeding £5000.

## **HS2 News**

Archaeological investigation work, involving excavating trenches and recording any finds, will start mid-June 2020 and will be completed by mid-autumn on the site near Lower Thorpe Mandeville. Access to the site will be along Banbury Lane. Normal working hours: Monday to Friday 8am – 6pm. Contractors may also be on site for one hour's quite start-up and shutdown outside of these times. There will be some additional traffic on local roads and noise from the equipment used for the works. The site will be manned with 24hr security and temporary flood lighting.

## **Local Government Reorganisation**

West Northants Shadow Authority comprises Members of Daventry, Northampton and South Northamptonshire councils and County Councillors covering these geographical areas. Members of the West Northamptonshire Shadow Authority will meet for the first time on Tuesday, 2 June at 7pm, and will adopt its constitution and appoint interim statutory officers (interim Head of Paid Service, monitoring officer and chief finance officer).

The agenda for the West Northants Shadow Authority meeting is available to view at: <https://cmis.northamptonshire.gov.uk/cm5live/WestNorthamptonshireShadowAuthority.aspx>

## **From Highways England**

### **NOTIFICATION OF ESSENTIAL MAINTENANCE WORKS ON THE A43 TRUNK ROAD**

I am writing to let you know that we will be carrying out essential maintenance work at various locations on the A43. During our comprehensive scheme of work on the A43, we will repair and replace damaged drains, partially reconstruct the carriageway, renew any damaged kerbs, refresh road markings and install road studs. Once completed, all road users will benefit from improved road safety and a smoother driving experience.

We will be delivering four schemes of work sequentially from early June 2020 to December 2020 in the following order:

- 1) A43/M40 Ardley Roundabout Work is due to be completed over June 2020, when we will work:
  - between 8pm and 6am, Monday to Friday (week night closures)
  - from 8pm Friday until 6am Monday (full weekend closure during one weekend)
- 2) & 3) A43 Northbound RAF Croughton and Barley Mow Roundabout and A43 Southbound at

Tusmore (combined build) Work is due to take place over August 2020

when we will work:

- between 8pm and 6am, Monday to Friday (week night closures)
- from 8pm Friday until 6am Monday (full weekend closures for 3 weekends)

4) A43 Southbound A413 to Whitfield and Abthorpe Roundabout Work is due to take place in September 2020 and is scheduled for completion in December 2020,

we will work:

- between 8pm and 6am, Monday to Friday (week night closures)

*Jose has a village network list of emails. She sends any news or information out to all people on that list, including missing dogs, break-ins, 'What's On' etc. etc. in fact anything to do with village life.*

*If you would like to be included, please email her...*

[culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com](mailto:culworthparishcouncilclerk@gmail.com)

***Whilst the Parish Council fund the publication of the newsletter, the views expressed in it may not be those of the Parish Council***

Please send items for the next newsletter to the editor, Michelle Koster, [michelle.koster@btinternet.com](mailto:michelle.koster@btinternet.com)

### **Want to know what is happening in the village?**

Here are some of the websites that may be helpful

Culworth Village website

Culworth Facebook

Culworth Community Facebook

Next door Culworth

Red Lion website and Facebook

Forge Coffee website

The Covid 19 support group is on facebook, at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/376450889905095>

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