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Good News Neighbours!

Village Newsletter



Edition #4 - 1st May 2020

Dear Byfielder,

Welcome to our fourth newsletter for the village - this is where we'll update you on how Byfielders are helping Byfielders in this difficult

The aim of Good Neighbours is to help everyone
#StayHome,SaveLives.

The more everyone can do this, the better.

We volunteers are, however, just normal people doing their bit for their neighbours - we will do what we can, but please be patient.

Everything we're doing can be found on our website :

www.byfieldgoodneighbours.com

If this is your first Good News(letter) the second half of the newsletter has information on:

- Shopping help
- Prescriptions delivery
- Hunkering in the Byfield Bunker- what's still fun in Byfield
- How to get involved
- Supporting us financially
- Who else needs help?

Hopefully the whole village knows we are here for them, but as a reminder, you do not have to be sick, old nor isolating to join in with the group sourcing via Good Neighbours – the goal is to reduce journeys for everyone, and that includes you.

We'd most particularly like to encourage key workers to utilise our support – let us help you, whilst you help us.

Byfield Good Neighbours launched last October, but in terms of Pandemic Preparedness, the team has been working hard for coming up to nine weeks!

As at today, 1st May, since #Lockdown :

Every house in the village has received a flyer from us, once in the beginning, and again over the last week or so.

We've fielded 239 calls to the helpline, plus emails, texts and Whatsapps.

We've delivered 244 shopping requests – the goods have been provided by the +1 Whatsapp Group Shoppers and from our direct-sourcing efforts, plus orders placed directly with the Co-op, all delivered by the team of Deliverers, co-ordinated by Karen.

We've delivered 15 newspapers a week since #Lockdown - thanks "paper-neighbours", plus over 25 other tasks such as posting items, moving things between neighbours, organising jigsaw & games swaps, tracking people down, fixing things, etc.

We've delivered 707 prescriptions to households in the village and the surrounding farms. The most in one day was 43!

We've had 18 masks hand-made for us by generous villagers, thank-you.

378 households in the village out of 580(ish)* are involved with Good Neighbours either volunteering, receiving deliveries or a bit of both, or had a care call from us :

*Like the Govt, we adjust our numbers as more info comes to light -
this new total figure includes outlying farms and houses

We're sure you'll join us in thanking each and every one of the volunteers - every one has been incredible.

Thank-you particularly this week to : -

- our flyer deliverers,
- the prescriptions deliverers who had to do the first rounds in the rain,
- the villagers who helped track down the rogue delivery driver who caused havoc around the village
- the jigsaw deliverers
- the pharmacy wrangler who spent all of Sunday afternoon extracting a prescription for someone
- the seed and plant exchangers

New activities :

Plant and Seed Exchange now active

A lovely innovation by the McAllisters, a plant and seed exchange has been set up to the right of the Co-op at the top of their drive.

Help yourself to things in the box, and ideally leave something in return - might be an idea if you could label anything green and sprouting though !!

A wonderful gift from Willow

Our lovely volunteer Willow is cutting off her gorgeous long hair, and

the charity Little Princess Trust will be making it into wigs for children who have lost their hair during cancer treatment. If you'd like to sponsor her, please follow this link :

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/willow-charity-shave>

Bluebells are out

Up past the gnomes (and down the hill towards the swan lakes) ,
Byfield's very own bluebell wood is in its full glory.

Let us know where else we should enjoy within walking distance!



Photo courtesy of Avril

Coming Soon :

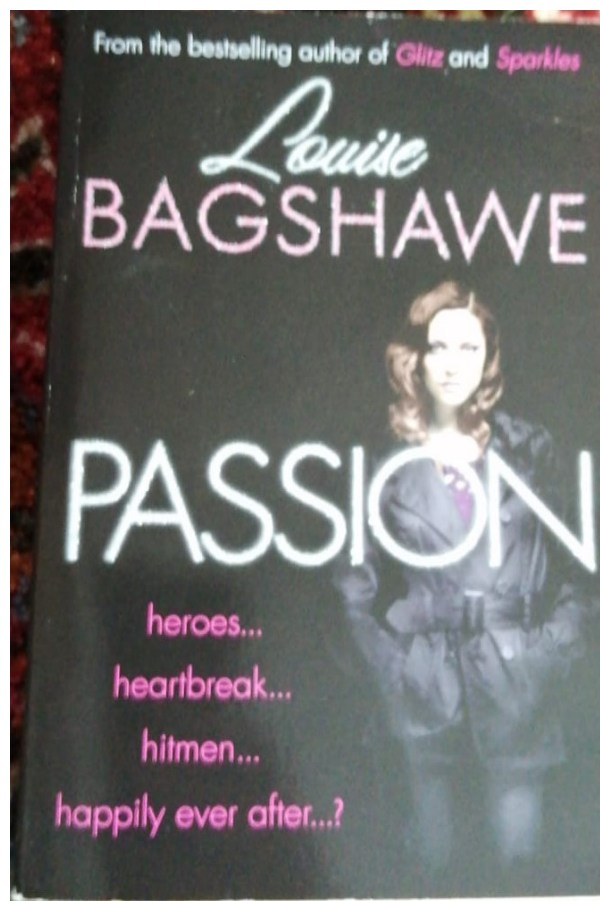
Currently in quarantine, but Wii games, more DVDs and books will be available on the website - check back next week!

[Don't forget ...](#)

QUIZ

Round 1 & 2 answers have also been posted on the site today - [Remotely Together](#).

Congratulations to John, the lucky dip prize winner - a book selected at random from villager's donations - he was disappointed not to win the rice pudding tin from Rachel's pantry, but that's the luck of the draw!!



Bored? Check out [the website](#).

Check out the website for lots of options for reading, on the internet, homeschooling resources, home exercise or cooking inspiration, borrowing entertainment for the kids or adults, sharing messages, local photography....

Want to get involved as a Good Neighbour?

See more information below or on the website, but if you can fix small things, or are handy with wood, we'd love to hear from you!!

Even if you are isolating, you can sign up as a volunteer and see the alerts we send out. You may be able to help - with no risk of exposure to CoVid - for example, by offering something from your shed when we get an SoS ('Share Our Shed' request), making a 'Care Call' to someone, or adding something to your online shopping order.

Are you worried about someone in Byfield needing help?

If you know of someone who would like a 'care call' from us - either regularly, or just occasionally - we're more than happy to reach out and check if they need something. You can even nominate yourself :)

Your friends and family are welcome to get in touch to help support you.

For example, several people's children are paying for their shopping orders electronically, rather than using up your cash (very unhygienic anyway!!). We're more than happy to arrange things with family members – they can even send us your shopping requests.

Inspiring ideas from elsewhere

There were flyers listing the County Council's helpline number distributed this week as well. You can call them for assistance as well. They can help when it is about official Council Services support but if it is something that we can help you with, they'll pass you back to Good Neighbours - might be quicker to ask directly :)

Other support options are listed on our [Useful Numbers](#) Page.

If you know someone who is jealous of your Good Neighbours, refer them to this helpful map of similar support in Northamptonshire

[MAP](#)

Elsewhere, search Mutual Aid + their location and they should find help nearby.

Have you thought about joining the Land Army. This site connects farms and locals willing to help - [Homegrown.earth](#)

Smile of the Week



Look closely.....From 1918, but we expect all pets to be similarly well-attired when masks become mandatory

Can we uninstall 2020
and install it again?

This version has a
Virus.

GoodLivingGuide.com

What made you smile this week? Let us have it to share !

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[Sign up for the Good News Newsletter](#)



IMPORTANT - everyone is allowed to benefit from having Good Neighbours in the village - the aim is to reduce the overall outings for everyone so we can all do more of #StayHome,SaveLives. You and your friends should be availing yourselves of the group's joint efforts, even if you can get out once a week to do your own shopping.

Shopping

Call the main number to request your items 01327 227000. See [here](#) for what shopping we can do for you.

#1 - Fruit and veg supplies (from our veg wholesaler) will come into the village on a Monday and a Thursday - plan ahead and get your requests in a couple of days before to ensure you have a fresh supply to hand without having to leave the village.

#2 - You do not need to be self-isolating or vulnerable to ask for your requirements to go on the list. The less we all travel the better - let us help you do that.

#3 - Don't like the idea of asking for help? If you are not in total isolation mode, perhaps you can [join the team](#) of shoppers to add 'one more thing' to your trolley for a neighbour?

Deliveries happen daily after 4pm.

You can also order and pay over the phone direct to the Co-op - Good Neighbours will bring your order to you in our delivery round.

Prescription Deliveries

Order your prescriptions with the Surgery (01327 265841) between 10 & 12pm, and 2-4pm or online.

When the item is ready for delivery, a Good Neighbour will bring it to you. Surgery staff bring controlled substance prescriptions separately.

Please note :

- We do not know who is due to be receiving a prescription, nor what you are receiving.

- We can NOT tell you a time we will be attempting a delivery, other than it will be after 2pm on a weekday.
- We can not leave a prescription if you are not in - it will be returned to the surgery and we will try again the following day. Speak to the surgery if you want alternative arrangements made.
- We will take a photo of you receiving your medicines for proof of delivery - you can hide behind the door if you wish, but this is necessary to protect you and us - written acceptance is suspended due to distancing requirements. See our website for Data Protection & Confidentiality Policy on how we keep and store your information.

See [here](#) for more advice on safely receiving a prescription or a delivery.

Byfield Bunker



Under #Lockdown we all have to stay at home as much as possible, but there's still plenty going on in Byfield. We're collating all this in the [Byfield Bunker](#) on the website. so keep checking back for more ideas.

[Old Thing, New Thing](#) - Something that is old hat to someone else, might just be an exciting new thing for you! Check here for the games, jigsaws and books you might be tempted by. We have quarantined them, so you can have them safely - we'll even bring them to you! Request via the webpage.

[Share our Shed](#) - There'll be things going wrong in our houses over the coming weeks. We can't just pop to the shop any more, but between us - we probably have everything we need in our sheds. Send an S.o.S (Share our Shed) request from this page, and let's see if we can crowdsource what you need.

[Dorothy's Store Cupboard](#) - Dorothy has lived through leaner times than this! If you're running out of ideas, why not ask Dorothy what she would make out of what's in your pantry and show us the yummy results!

[Remotely, Together](#) - this is where we're storing suggestion, ideas, useful links - including weekly fresh quiz round, exercising at home for seniors and more.

This is also where you'll find pages such as [NN11 Nature](#) : we're spending a lot of time near Byfield at the moment - perhaps exercising more than usual in the countryside. Share your images of beautiful Byfield. or suggest new spots that villagers might not know about.

[Kid Zone](#) - a repository of resources and ideas to keep the kids entertained - download colouring in pages to say thank-you to our binmen and posties, or see the Teddy Bear Hunt around the village. We've also got a [Children's Library](#) from a kind volunteer, and now family DVDs too.

[Byfield Bush Telegraph](#) - whether you are on your own usually or not, this might be a particularly difficult time to show someone you care. You can leave a message for a Byfielder on our Bush Telegraph page -

or a general message of positivity is just as welcome. We are also matching new friends to keep in touch with each other - let us know if you'd like to be a penpal with someone new - young or old!

[Useful Numbers](#) - a repository of useful contacts for this pandemic period.

This is the village's resource - let us know what you are doing or would like to see happen - all ideas are welcome, all the more so if you can make the idea work !! Email us any time.

How to Volunteer

New volunteers are always welcome - whether you are able to go out or are currently self-isolating. Call or email us and ideas for help you can do from home are on the website.

We have registered ourselves with Daventry District Council and Northants County Council as the local volunteering support, as well as on Mutual Aid and People Together. We understand that they will direct enquiries to us, but no clarity on that as yet. The NHS volunteer recruitment site is reportedly often overwhelmed, but we can put people to work for us in Byfield straight away!!

Don't forget, we expect that people will have different levels of availability throughout this time. We appreciate that you all have to make your own decisions for your own household, and if that means removing yourself from physically contributing to GN for a while, that is totally understood.

Apply [via the website](#) and we will get you helping your neighbours in no time!

In response to requests for ways to support us financially, we have set up a [GoFundMe](#) .

We've been amazed at the response so far from villagers, both via GoFundMe and direct donations.

Not everyone wants to be public about their donations, but you know who you are, and THANK-YOU!

That has allowed us to buy and host the website for the foreseeable future, to meet the phonebill & the DBS check charges we will have to pay, plus we can buy more efficiently from our sources with this as a float.

Who else should we be helping?

Do you know of someone who Byfield Good Neighbours could be supporting ?

Encourage them to call us, or let us know and we can reach out to them.

Do your friends and family know that Byfield has a Good Neighbours Scheme - let them know that we are here for you, and that they can help us help you - for example, by setting up a PayPal account to remotely pay for shopping.

If you are on Facebook, follow us and share our posts please!

Finally, we've already supported other villages to get set up as Good Neighbours at speed, and we're more than happy to help anyone else - tell them to get in touch.

Thank-you so much for all your support,

Your Good Neighbours

Update 1/5/20 Byfield Good Neighbour Scheme



Neighbours helping Neighbours

ByfieldGNS@gmail.com

www.byfieldgoodneighbours.com

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Our mailing address is:

49 Boddington Rd, Byfield

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