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Good News Neighbours!

Village Newsletter



Edition #5 - 8th May 2020

Dear Byfielder,

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

The current aim of Byfield 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.

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.

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?
-

If it feels like a particularly hard week, it's been a long time to endure this, so be nice to yourselves!

As at today, 8th 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 268 calls to the helpline, plus emails, texts and Whatsapps.

We've delivered 320 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 32 other tasks such as posting items, moving things between neighbours, organising jigsaw & games swaps, tracking people down, fixing things, etc.

We've delivered 822 prescriptions to households in the village and the surrounding farms. The record is still 43 in one day, but special shout-out to the deliverer still delivering today, on a bank holiday!

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

396 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 :

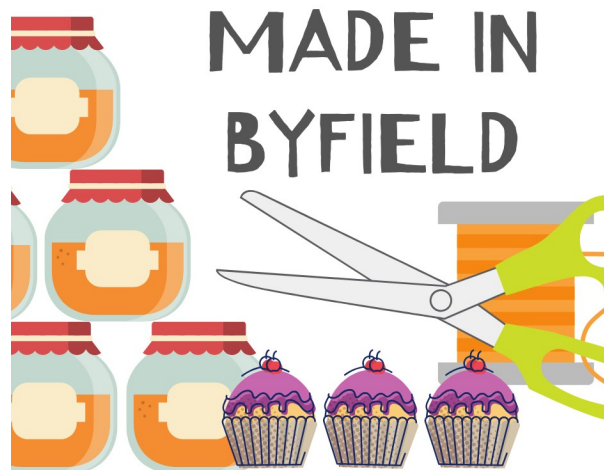
*Like the Govt, we adjust our numbers as more info comes to light -
this new total figure includes outlying farms and houses

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

This week we've responded to multiple S.o.S. requests (Share our Shed), we've found OS maps for young Duke of Edinburgh students, lots of wool for a new grandchild's hand-knitted blanket, old mobile phones and potential fridges for Banbury Community Kitchen. **Thank-you, Byfield!**

New ways of Supporting Byfield

We're continuously looking for ways to keep Byfield going in these difficult times, and thanks for everyone coming forward with your suggestions and thoughts – they're always welcome, and produce results like these :



In the coming week, we'll be launching '**Made in Byfield**' page on our website listing locally made items available for purchase direct from their creators. Lots of these things would have been sold at the Spring & Summer Fairs which have been postponed, so it would be great to

Initial products:

Marilyn's Cards – 01327 261747 – cards made from Marilyn's beautiful watercolours, blank inside

Kylie's Cards – 07837 838028 – eclectic hand-made cards for all occasions, blank inside, can be regifted

Pom's marmalade – 07967 737349 – home-made Seville orange marmalade

Let other local makers know!

Whilst we're thinking about supporting local makers, let's also remember **our local service providers**. Our hairdressers / beauticians / therapists / dogwalkers / exercise class teachers / etc / etc are having a difficult time if their business has had to be totally suspended. It's probably about now that you would have been booking your next hair-colour or beauty treatment, so it would be a nice thought to still be able to support them financially if you can. Not everyone will be able to obviously, but even a few of us paying for our usual service – even if we can't access it - might make a world of difference to our self-employed friends!!



Even the most prepared of people may now be starting to see their stocks run low, and we are helping more Byfielders than ever, especially those for whom the Pandemic is really now starting to bite. We're very happy to receive donations – physical or financial – to support those who need it. To this end we've set up the **Byfield Good Neighbours 'Pink Pantry'** – a donation bright pink crate in the Co-op to capture any spur of the moment donations from Co-op customers. All other donations can be left at 7 High St, The Old Bakehouse – there is a Good Neighbours sign on the gate, thank-you.

We are receiving **excess food from Banbury Community Kitchen**, who supports many families in Banbury. This week, we handed out as much as possible and the excess will be made into ready meals this weekend and frozen. Thank-you to the cooks who are doing this work, and let us know if you know of anyone who could make use of their hard work in the coming weeks.

Thank-you too to the lovely Bernie, who had a marathon baking session with her friends over Skype, and then **shared the delicious cakes** with lots of people in the village as part of being a Good Neighbour. That was a really lovely idea, thank-you Bernie – they were thrilled to receive a surprise cake!



If you, or someone you know would appreciate being on the **'nice surprises' list**, do say - can't promise cake every week, but we've

done little plants and birthday treats too. Lots of your neighbours would like to do nice things for someone occasionally – it can be you too!

New activities :

Quiz

Winner ! Well done Avril, the quickest to submit a fully correct answer sheet for the Come to Dinner Quiz last week. Her lucky dip prize :)



Answers now posted on the website, and new rounds available for [download](#) – Round 5 - QuickFire Questions & Round 6 - Questionable Fan Art.

New for this week :

A very brilliant invention by Lesley P, a 'Byfield Village Hunt' - 'scavenger hunt for answers' around the village is up on [the site](#) – print it off and use it as your daily exercise, with added fun !

Kid Zone

There is lots of information out there for home-schoolers, and the Council have pulled together an amazing **document listing resources by category**, and includes resources for SEND and specialty topics. You can download it from the [Kid Zone](#) of the website.

Another delightful innovation, a grandparent in the village recorded herself 'virtual-reading' **two bedtime stories to her grandchildren**, and put the videos on Youtube. She's kindly agreed to share them with Byfielders, and you can find the links to the story videos on the [Kid Zone](#) which might be a nice update to bedtime for you.

If you're inspired to do something similar, we'd be very happy to share with the group!

Lots of **Wii games, books, etc** have been donated this week. Get in touch if you'd like to know the full list – [photos on the website](#).

Offerings

We have had the offer of **a composter and a tumble drier** that are free to homes that would make good use of them. Get in touch via the main number or email ByfieldGNS@gmail.com

[Sign up for the newsletter](#) if you'd like to hear about future offers.

Don't forget ...

Good Neighbours Plant and Seed Exchange is a roaring success.

Lots of incoming and outgoings at the seed exchange at the top of the right hand drive next to the Co-op – feel free to keep doing so as your own seedlings grow up in this lovely weather.

Thank-you to those of you sharing your photos

[NN11 Nature](#) – some beautiful shots this week.

Have you enjoyed an 'appropriately socially-distanced Street Party' today ?

Whitecroft Lane had a lovely time :



Share your photos of your 'Peace in Europe' celebrations with us too!

Well done Willow who did indeed chop off her hair – proof :



£740 raised to get wigs made from her hair for children who have lost theirs due to cancer treatments – we're so proud of her!!

Inspiring ideas from elsewhere

For Book Lovers, this weekend is the BBC's Big Book Weekend, a virtual Literary Festival.

See more at <https://myvlf.com/>

Highlights of the three-day festival include:

Robert Webb, best known for his roles in Mitchell & Webb and Peep Show, discusses his literary work with acclaimed literary journalist Alex

Bernardine Evaristo, winner of the 2019 Booker Prize, discusses *Girl, Woman, Other* with Creative Scotland's Mairi Kidd.

Neil Gaiman celebrates 100 years since the birth of legendary fantasy and sci-fi guru Ray Bradbury with the award-winning Bradbury biographer and writer Sam Weller.

Maggie O'Farrell discusses the joy and importance of book festivals with Damian Barr.

Alexander McCall Smith reads a special message to readers and festival organisers to inspire and uplift, written especially for the Big Book Weekend.

Michael Morpurgo talks to Clare Mulley about his bestselling World War II books for children, commemorating the 75th anniversary of VE Day

Luke Jennings talks about what drove him to create his female-centred thriller *Killing Eve* with crime novelist Sarah Hilary.

Marian Keyes discusses writing, finding and using your voice, and growing into your own skin with bestselling author and co-founder of the Women's Equality Party, Catherine Mayer.

Sir Tim Rice discusses his life and career, the inspiration for his award-winning musicals and what it takes to pen some of the best-known lyrics ever written, with Daniel Hahn.

And if you like that type of thing, you can find similar content at:

<https://www.lockdownlitfest.com/home>

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 :)

Other support options are listed on our [Useful Numbers](#) Page, including the County helpline.

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.

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 - one chap always adds a bunch of flowers for his mum!

This week we've made special birthday visits, with cards and treats to two Byfielders whose families are too distant.

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.

Smile of the Week



#Lockdown hair ?



H said - "Smile? I CHEERED!!! This jigsaw took 6 weeks. No. I don't want to borrow another one."

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

Who do you know who should be signed up to



[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.

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

Top tips -

#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.



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 & DVDs 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 home-schooling 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!

Supporting us financially

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. With the donations counting as 'matched funding', we're hoping we qualify for support from the HS2 village funding too.

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 8/5/20 Byfield Good Neighbour Scheme



Neighbours helping Neighbours

ByfieldGNS@gmail.com

www.byfieldgoodneighbours.com

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