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Good News Neighbours!

Village Newsletter



Edition #6 - 15th May 2020

Dear Byfielder,

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

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.~~

It's been a long haul, and there's much confusion over what is and isn't allowed, and how the country will be opening up. Please be reassured that Good Neighbours was here before all this, and we'll continue throughout, and beyond, until we're back to our usual Good Neighbours support.

If you know of anyone else relying on Good Neighbours and are feeling apprehensive going forward, please do let them know we won't abandon them!

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?

What your Good Neighbours have done for Byfield to date....

As at today, 14th May, since #Lockdown :

We've **reached out** to every house in the village at least twice, and are continuing to encourage people to get in touch.

We've fielded **307 calls** to the helpline, plus emails, texts and Whatsapps.

We've delivered **387 shopping** requests or care packages – the goods have been provided by donations & the +1 Whatsapp Group Shoppers and from our direct-sourcing efforts. Including orders placed directly with the Co-op, these were 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 40 other tasks** such as posting items, moving things between neighbours, organising jigsaw & games swaps, tracking people down, fixing things, etc. **62 nice surprises** have been delivered to villagers' homes.

We've delivered **962 prescriptions** to households in the village and the surrounding farms. The record is now 44 stops in one afternoon !

We've had **18 masks** hand-made for us by generous villagers, thank-you. More masks always welcome!

405 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 :

That's **70%!!**

*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, lots of 'Nice Surprises' were found upon doorsteps across the village - just a little gift - of banana bread or blueberry muffins - to let you know Byfielders care. The love spread was delightful to hear about, and anyone and everyone can be included!

We'd like to involve all villagers in the Good Neighbours family, and you don't need to be totally alone in order to partake. In particular, please let anyone you know with carers providing support that they are welcome to join in with Good



First of all, Thanks

This week, there are too many bakers & makers to thank individually, the response has been fantastic and much appreciated by everyone who has benefited.



The Pink Pantry in the Co-op - thank-you to all those helping every time you're in there. Lots of people are also occasionally magicking a bag of provisions, including toiletries etc – onto the Good Neighbours doorsteps – thank-you secret people!!

PINK PANTRY

Thank-you for your donations

As mentioned last week, Banbury Community Kitchen has been providing us with overflow food, but we'd also like to thank : [Mitchells Potatoes](#) and [Purston Lamb](#) for their kind donations – check them out on their websites and give them some support to say thank-you!

As well as the banana bread and blueberry muffins, made so far by brilliant Byfielders :



Pots and pots of Chilli jam



Litres of Mushroom Soup

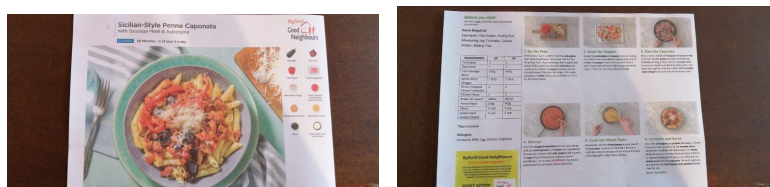


Gallons of Ratatouille



Garlic bread

~~We're also making our own version of Hello Fresh Meal kits :~~



If you're wondering how this is being managed, we can thank Karen - hereby promoted to Shopping General to reflect a truly remarkable feat of co-ordination and effort on her part. 'Grateful' doesn't really cover it, we think you'll agree!

Any overflow that we can not make use of, we are sending to Woodford Good Neighbours Scheme to help them support their families, and as a last resort, if items are too far gone to make use of, some lucky local pigs are being treated Very well!

Thank-you, too, to the kind Neighbour who **donated a big bag of kids' crafting supplies - a god-send for one family this week** – that was a lovely idea!

Some **other great help** provided this week by Good Neighbours included reattaching a curtain pole, sending post, patients being brought to the surgery, and more.

A Neighbour who wishes to remain anonymous has made **an incredibly generous donation** this week, in recognition of what a lovely place Byfield has always been to live – we are indescribably grateful, and will put the funds to good use.

Finally, thanks to the amazing staff at the School who are operating under such difficult circumstances, you are appreciated!

Offers

A neighbour made a request for spare wool to make a grandchild's blanket, and

[Subscribe](#) [Past Issues](#) [we were kindly inundated. If you can make some **good use of some yarn**, \[Translate\]\(#\)
your neighbours are very happy for you to have it – get in touch!](#)

You may have seen a lot about baking your own bread, and **'sourdough starters'** in the press during #Lockdown. If you've been tempted, a kind neighbour Jane can get you 'started' as she has offered to 'split the mother' – which is 10 years old! – and can help you with instructions and guidance to get going for yourselves. Get in touch to be put in touch!

Fridge/Freezer – Free to a good home ! A Neighbour has one going spare – first dibs for Byfielders, after that it will go on Next Door!

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

Requests

Byfield has done an amazing job supporting each other during this time, and – at some point in the future – we'll want to look back and acknowledge how excellently we pulled together. We're collating small video clips and photos, but need someone who knows how to pull them into some **short videos** for us. Could that be you ? No deadline on it, but better to be involved early to ensure that we can get you the evidence that you need!

If you are inspired by this week's feats of food production, you can get involved too!

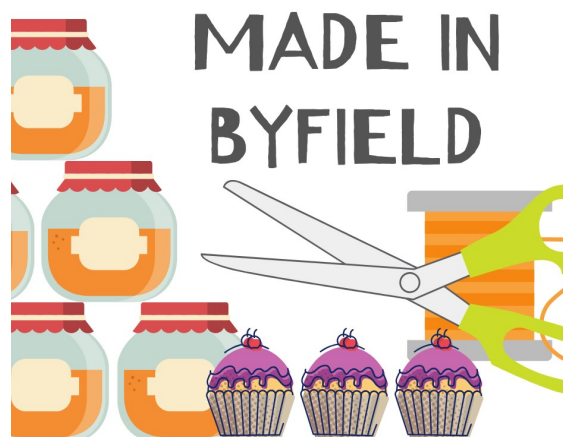
If you **like to cook**, and would see this as a short-notice challenge that can a) use up what we've been given and b) would be very welcome from the households we're supporting, ask us to let you know when we have a big surplus.

We're going to set up a **new Whatsapp group** which will post the surplus food we have been given – do join if you'd like to jump in with a favourite recipe to cook up a batch which goes to support our neighbours in need, or the Nice Surprises recipients.

And it **doesn't have to be cooking!** We've used up all the chillis we can for now, but could you dry some to make some Christmas Wreaths for us, perhaps

If you can't do any of that, no problem - we'll take **your spare jars** though please - don't put them in the recycling - leave them at The Old Bakehouse, 7 High St (our sign is on the gate) or call and we'll fetch them from you.

[Now live on the website!](#)



['Made in Byfield' page](#) on our website lists 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 support our community in this way if you can.

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!

[New activities :](#)

[Quiz](#)

Ann did the best on the Fan Art round, winning a hand-drawn picture of Justin Beiber !



Strangely, Ann declined, so free to a good home - any takers ??

Answers now posted on the website, and new rounds available for [download](#) – Round 7 Dingbats & Round 8 - QAnagrams.

We're not posting the answers yet for Lesley P's 'Byfield Village Hunt'. The '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

Another 'virtual-reading' bedtime story is up on the site - what a lovely idea!

Don't forget ...

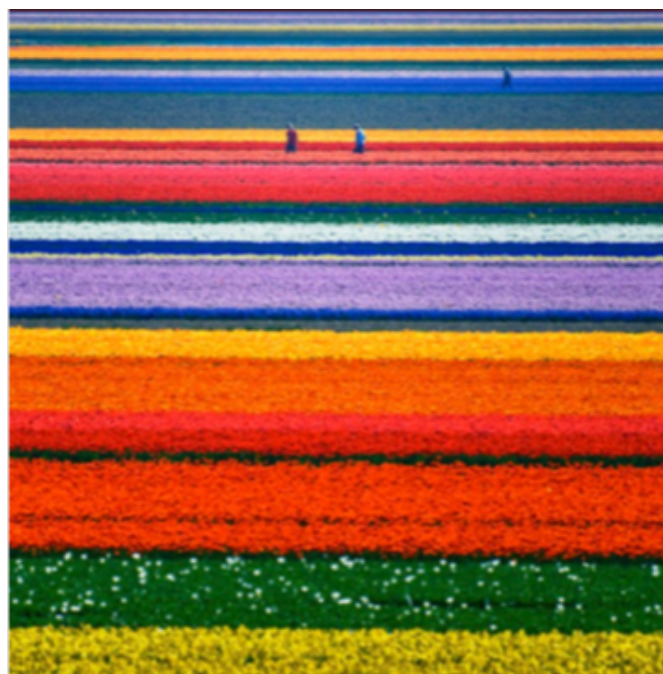
[NN11 Nature](#) – some gorgeous literally born-in-the-last 18-hours shots of cygnets with their mum this week !



Inspiring ideas from elsewhere

Thinking this week about places we'd like to go back to at some point !

Dutch flower fields would be high on our list at this time of year



Share your favourite locations!

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 :)

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



"What?? You said to wear a mask when I go out!"

This is a baby Platypus - never seen
one before but thought you would
like to see it



Not funny, just cute!



Looking out for each other, postie-style!

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

Who do you know who should be signed up to

Good News Neighbours!

Village Newsletter

[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.

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

#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 & 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.

[Subscribe](#) [Past Issues](#) [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! [Translate](#)

[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.

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 14/5/20 Byfield Good Neighbour Scheme



Neighbours helping Neighbours

ByfieldGNS@gmail.com

www.byfieldgoodneighbours.com

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49 Boddington Rd, Byfield

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