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# Good News Neighbours!

Village Newsletter



Edition #6 - 22nd 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

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.

An incredible milestone reached this week on GoFundMe, reaching our initial target of £1000, thanks to the kind donations of local people and companies. We're going onwards and upwards however, so the campaign is still live : <https://www.gofundme.com/f/byfield-good-neighbours-scheme>

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

[www.byfieldgoodneighbours.com](http://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?

Even if you feel that you know what Good Neighbours does, can we suggest that you read all the way to the end of this long newsletter, as there may be something that you might want to participate in, now that we're so far into this thing.

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!

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

## As at today, 22nd 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 **343 calls** to the helpline, plus emails, texts and Whatsapps.

We've delivered **445 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 46 other tasks** such as posting items, moving things between neighbours, organising jigsaw & games swaps, tracking people down, fixing things, IT queries etc. **190 nice surprises** have been delivered to villagers' homes.

We've delivered **1085 prescriptions** to households in the village and the surrounding farms. The record is 44 stops in one afternoon!

We've had **34 masks** hand-made for us by generous villagers, thank-you. More masks always welcome!

Subscribe Past Issues Tr:  
402 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 69%!!

\*Like the Govt, we adjust our numbers as more info comes to light - this new total figure includes outlying farms and houses, removes different name / same house combinations + empty houses.

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

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### Expanding support as #Lockdown bites

As you may or may not know, we are actively supporting some households in the village on an urgent need basis. Your money is going towards this work, as well as securing our minimal running costs for the coming months. We are also receiving surplus food from a variety of sources, including Banbury Community Kitchen.

From this week, we've also joined in with SOFEA Community Larder, a charity that was being set up to make use of useable food that would otherwise have ended up in landfill. They were due to begin in June, but have rapidly repurposed themselves into a foodbox distribution hub. The boxes give us some basic provisions each week, which we'll top up as appropriate for the households we're helping.

Not to be cheeky, but donations are always welcome, and we'd particularly appreciate toiletries for adults and children, any size / type, plus cleaning products. These can be left – anonymously or otherwise – at 7 High Street (our sign is on the gate) or in the Pink Pantry box in the Co-op.



### Surplus food and 'Nice Surprises'

It was another good week for using up the overflow food – Good Neighbours made a variety of soups – Broccoli & Stilton, Parsnip & Carrot, Curried Parsnip, Parsnip & Roasted Garlic – the soups are particularly welcome to some of our neighbours, being nutritious as well as delicious, and easy to prepare and eat if they're feeling unwell. Chilli jam and red onion chutney were also created this week.

This week's cake makers turned out a treasure trove of goodies – victoria sponges, malt loaf, banana cake, chocolate & beetroot cake and ginger cake.

Thank-you to all this week's makers – Orla, Bernie, Gemma, Anne, Sallyann & Ellie, Karen, Katharine, Sarah & Jo. Thank-you to all those coming forward to offer to do more of this – we'll be in touch soon if we haven't already.



We have made a storming start on leaving 'Nice Surprises' on doorsteps. Last weekend, several streets had 'made on that day' overflow bread and pastries from M&S, and today should have had some of the home-made lovely cake on other streets. Don't fear if you feel you're missing out – we'll get to your street soon, but you can also get on our official list for the occasional treat.

Call or email us, or if there is someone you know who could do with a touch of neighbourly concern, you can make sure they are on our radar in the same way.

### Requests



Thank-you to the lovely Julie for making 16 more masks for us this week. Regardless of what you see in the shops from others, and what has been previously said about the necessity of them, to get back to full opening we're all going to need to be wearing them in confined spaces soon, so we want to get ahead of the game. If you have 5/6mm elastic sitting in the bottom of a drawer, we can make use of it please!

Other makers, we also need you! There is a page on the website that shows a design for an ideal cloth mask, if you are up for making even a few of these, that would be great. Other designs are good too, but do ask if you have any questions. Let us know too if you'd like a mask and we can help provide you with one.

Thanks to the Good Neighbours this week who have offered chopped logs. They went to a good home, and we may have more coming soon from the Council so watch your emails for the offer. Teenagers also fixed phones this week, and flowers were sourced from a garden centre for someone who can't go there themselves yet.

What might you ask for a Good Neighbour to help you with this week?

### New activities :

#### Quiz

New Quiz Rounds available on [the website](#).

Round 9 Gourmet Guesses & Round 10 Fiendish Facts

Answers from last week now posted – Dingbats and Qanagrams!

Well done entrants – David wins a lucky dip prize – a lovely piece of cake, unfortunately I thought it was my 'Nice Surprise' so he'll have to

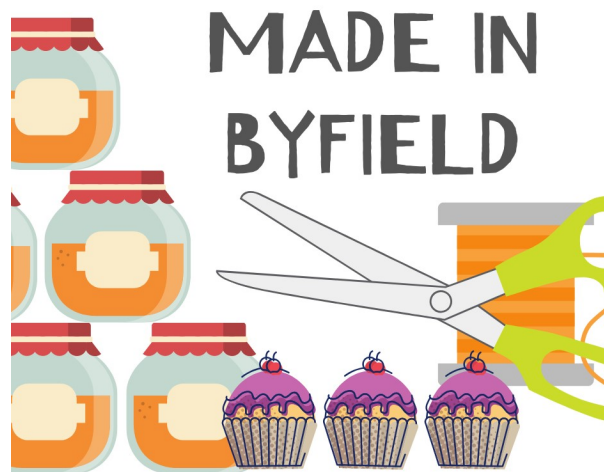
### Don't forget ...

Why not save on your recycling and help us at the same time?

We urgently need containers to put our creations in!

Soup containers, cleaned jars (all with secure lids) – as many as possible please. Leave at 7 High St at any time.

### 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



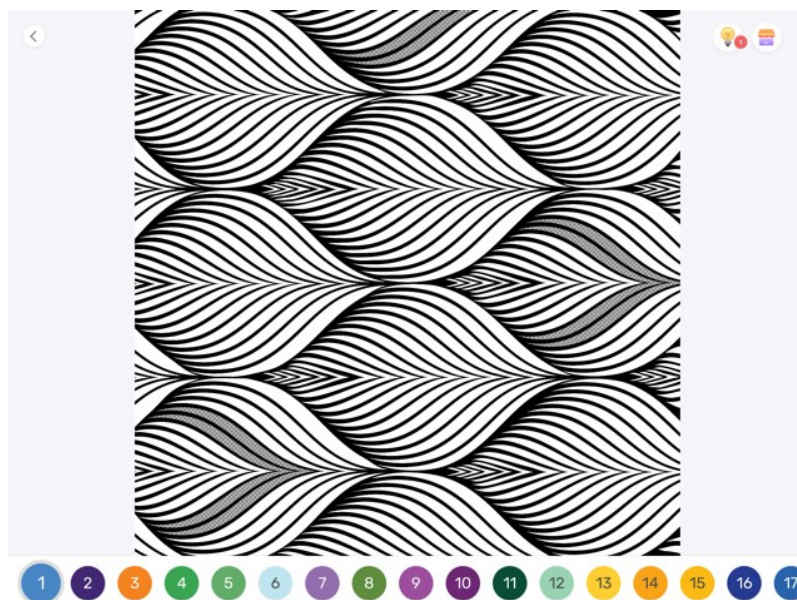
Pom's marmalade – 07967 737349 – home-made Seville orange marmalade

Julie's masks - email [jerlferguson@btinternet.com](mailto:jerlferguson@btinternet.com) to find out more.

Let other local makers know!

### Inspiring ideas from elsewhere

Lots of adult colouring-in. We found this one very meditative, especially as it is online, and you don't even need crayons!!



**Beware** – there are fraudsters operating even in Pandemics! Do not give out your bank details if someone calls you, even if they are claiming to be the police. The advice is:

“Confirm requests are genuine by using a known number to contact organisations directly. The police non-emergency number is 101. For

your bank, use the number printed on your bank statement or bank card. Use a different phone to make this call whenever possible as fraudsters can keep phone lines open.”

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### **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!

We've made special birthday visits, with cards and treats to Byfielders whose families are too distant during the Pandemic, get in touch if we can help you make your relative or friend feel loved.

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## 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



From around the village, super-cute little scenes like this one are appearing :

Not sure who's doing it, but we love it!!

Another two lovely bedtime stories live [on the site](#), this time from the oeuvre of Thomas the Tank Engine.

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

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Who do you know who should be signed up to



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

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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.

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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, or little jobs that we want to get done. 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. You can also get in touch to offer things like free logs to your neighbours if you'd like.

[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

[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. Join us helping your neighbours even if you are stuck at home if you can sew by becoming one of [our MaskMasters](#).

[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. One lovely grandma is recording bedtime stories for her grandchildren, and you can watch those videos with your little ones on there 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.



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. We're now actively supporting households in urgent need, and your donations also literally are feeding the village.

### **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

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Past Issues 

Neighbours helping Neighbours

Tr:



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www.byfieldgoodneighbours.com

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**Our mailing address is:**

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