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Good News Neighbours!

Village Newsletter



Edition #8 - 29th May 2020

Dear Byfielder,

Welcome to our eighth 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.

As the country starts to loosen, you may find this a good or a scary thing, so we thought it might be helpful to know that Good Neighbours will be here to support you, at your speed.

We will not be loosening our care and attention to safety, so :

We will keep our distance and expect you to do the same please, regardless of your own level of comfort. This minimises the risk of airborne transfer.

We will do our very best to make sure we are not transferring the virus by contact, washing hands, using hand sanitiser and wearing gloves as appropriate. Please do the same if you are giving anything to a volunteer or to the Scheme.

We volunteers are, however, just normal people doing their bit for their neighbours - we will do what we can, but please be patient. If you feel that any of the above was not your experience from a volunteer, you should let us know so we can address it. We would all rather be told than have you worry!

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

www.byfieldgoodneighbours.com

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!

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

As at today, 29th 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 **374 calls** to the helpline, plus emails, texts and Whatsapps.

We've delivered **515 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

We've delivered **15 newspapers a week** since #Lockdown - thanks "paper-neighbours", plus **over 52 other tasks** such as posting items, moving things between neighbours, organising jigsaw & games swaps, tracking people down, fixing things, IT queries etc. **Over 400 nice surprises** have been delivered to villagers' homes.

We've delivered **1188 prescriptions** to households in the village and the surrounding farms. The record is 44 stops in one afternoon!

We've had **50 masks** hand-made for us by generous villagers, thank-you. More masks always welcome!

418 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 **72%!!**

*

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

This week

Bakers, Makers & Helpers WhatsApp group is really gearing up now, and we're very thankful that Jo Browning has taken over the coordination of this. Anyone is welcome to join that, just get in touch and we'll send you an invite.

This is where we will let you know what overflow food needs to be

made up into something useful / long-lasting, and you can get involved in making and delivering the Nice Surprises that are spreading so much happiness around Byfield each week!

This week, cakes were in abundance – banana, rock,cup, lemon drizzle, chocolate & squash, banana apple and raisin muffins went to several whole streets in the village. If you haven't had a nice surprise yet, you'll be on the list, don't worry.

More soup, garlic breads, mango & chilli jam were being made this week, and mangoes and chillies put to other good uses as well. Ready made bacon and sausage baps and Costa sandwiches made up some of the overflow this week, plus unusual loaves from M&S were well received.

Thank-you to all the bakers and deliverers, which contained 'new to Good Neighbours' teenagers as well – it's great to continue expanding the team across the age ranges. If you'd like to join in in a large or small way, why not ask to be added to the WhatsApp group to follow along the conversation and inspiration. We can find you an appropriate job, no matter what your availability.

More thanks

To the IT crew this week, several puzzles solved! Oven-fixing sourced, plus compost and trips to the doctor and pharmacy as well this week, so another busy one, on top of all the food and prescriptions. We were pleased the surgery staff did not work this bank holiday (they have all the other ones during the Pandemic), they have been doing a wonderful job in difficult circumstances.

An incredible response to the mens' shoes request – fabulous! Children's toys which were donated were also well received, thank-you.

The Pink Pantry was excellently stocked this week – thank-you if this was you! Our families 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.

Thank-you to those who have nominated their neighbours for the Nice Surprises List, we'll make sure they're included going forward. You can do this too, or nominate yourself 😊

Requests

Spare trailing fuschias would be appreciated by a neighbour

Julie made more masks again this week -sterling work! These are different sizes for larger and smaller heads, so reach out if you need something to be able to go shopping safely. We can always do with elastic if you have any please.

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

Lost & Found:

Some brown ladies glasses were found on the gravel at 7 High St – if they're yours, please let us know!

Don't forget ...

Last week's were hard, weren't they?!

Round 11 – Animal Groups

Round 12 – General Knowledge, Food Conundrums & Wordplay

Answers now posted for the Village Hunt as well!

[Inspiring ideas from elsewhere](#)

Two new resources for stay-at-home exercising

[Active at Home Booklet](#)

[Get up & Go Exercises at Home Poster](#)



This coming week is Volunteers' Week, and we can safely say that Byfield is packed full of people doing good for others. There's a 'Cheers for Volunteers' at 8pm on Monday, but if you just raise a glass

Smile of the Week

Only one joke this week, but not sure we're laughing...





BrewDog @BrewDog · 1d

The people have spoken. So, we decided to actually do it.

Our limited edition beer is available now for pre-sale; bit.ly/36wWTHE

All proceeds will go to funding our production of free sanitiser for the NHS & Health care charities.



1,112 9,163 24.1K

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

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.

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.

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 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

[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 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. 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.

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. 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

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 29/5/20 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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