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Good News Neighbours!

Village Newsletter



Edition #10 - 16th June 2020

Dear Byfielder,

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

Apologies for the delay in getting this newsletter out, but we have been reviewing our strategies for helping people in the 'transition' back to normal, and how we are going to get from here to there with changing availabilities of our volunteers. Please see the second half of this newsletter for the current arrangements in place for now until the end of June - the important points to note are :

Some neighbours are thinking about venturing out for the first time in a while, we're here to help you do that too, if you'd like to. We've had lots of time to think these things through, so if you'd like to start planning, feel free to give us a call for a chat. We can provide you with gloves and a mask, and help you work out how you can make your trip and do your task in the safest manner possible.



However, if this is not you - whether through choice or necessity - Good Neighbours will be here beyond the Pandemic. Consider what we've been doing throughout the Pandemic as 'super-charged' Good Neighbours - we can still do all of these things for you afterwards, as well as our regular social events, enabling villagers to join in – via lifts or company – when the huge range of village activities are back to full strength, the odd 'helping hand' or a bit of extra help when coming out of hospital etc or when the weather is bad.

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

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....

Up to 14th June, 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 **425 calls** to the helpline, plus emails, texts and Whatsapps.

We've delivered **641 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 64 other tasks** such as posting items, moving things between neighbours, organising jigsaw & games swaps,

We've delivered **1462 prescriptions** to households in the village and the surrounding farms. The record was beaten again this week - now 56 stops in one afternoon!

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

420 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

Some exciting squirrel-wrangling happened this week in the village, but intrepid Bernie saved the day !



She'd like me to confirm that she encouraged it safely out of the door, despite the impressive stick :)

Plenty more Nice Surprises were delivered this week - we're thrilled that every household should now have had at least one item offered to them - magnificent achievement!

The best surprise was arranged by a daughter in Wales - a spectacular cake by Denise for a very special birthday, so when her mum received visitors calling round on the day she would have something to offer them.



Lots more free support also went out to villagers this week, from your direct donations, bought with your donations or made by villagers from surplus produce. We're planning to continue this support throughout the school summer holidays, so do keep popping things in your basket for us whenever possible. By all means ask if you'd like to know what to get specifically.

We also helped a villager who was locked out of their house to get back in, an emergency light bulb replacement elsewhere, and sourced an emergency plumber for a neighbour.

Requests

Spare trailing fuschias would be appreciated by a neighbour

With mask-wearing becoming more common, we have home-made

masks available in 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?

Offers

Pine table available to a good home - free, but you must be able to collect.

Dimensions approximately 72 inches (182cm) in length, 35 inches (90cm) in width and 28 inches (71cm) in height. Contact us to be put in touch.

Chilli jam - £2 a pot - few pots remaining of the popular Byfield-made stuff - order now!

New produce, made this week in Byfield :

Soft licorice in jars (different flavours available) £1.25 each

Large jars of pickled shallots with bay & chilli. £TBC

Don't forget ...

New quiz - Round 14 'Animals in the Arts'

Round 13 - cryptic 'Name that Plant' - Answers for last week are up on the [website](#)

Would You Like to Continue to Volunteer to Support Your County in Other Emergencies?

The **British Red Cross Community Reserves** is a network of people ready to help in an emergency, supporting their community by sharing public health messages, connecting with others safely and helping provide basic supplies.

Community Reserve Volunteers will carry out practical tasks, they have been trained to do: fill sandbags, clear roads and paths, move furniture upstairs in a house before a flood, sort essential supplies, stock and equipment or carry out administrative roles. Community Reserve Volunteers work in small teams led by an experienced Red Cross volunteer who will ensure that the teams are well supported and directed.

A **Community Reserve Volunteer** is anyone who wants to help their local community if a large incident should occur, but is perhaps unable to commit to regular volunteering with us.

No specialist skills are required and the volunteers can decide whether to respond to an incident on a case-by-case basis.

You can sign up as a Community Reserve Volunteer:

Email: reserves@redcross.org.uk

Website: www.redcross.org.uk/reserves

Smile of the Week

My dog does this every time we set the table and I cannot stress enough how much I respect her optimism



Tweet your reply



Want to get involved as a Good Neighbour?

If you're keen to support your neighbours remotely, there are lots of ways to do that – if you're shopping in the Co-op, why not drop

something in the Pink Pantry? Or leave your glut of garden produce at The Old Bakehouse, 7 High St and we can make something from it.

We're also starting to look forward towards a normal 'Good Neighbours' set up, and would like to hope that all of our new friends and supporters will continue to be involved. If you're thinking along those lines, here's a couple of ideas :

Jigsaw Librarian – oversee the ins and outs of the village's jigsaw supplies

Café&Co – our café runs once a month on a Sunday afternoon – we need cake makers, kitchen staff, welcomers, and a co-ordinator – could this be you?

Nice Surprises - these have been such a hit, we'd like to keep this going beyond CoVid.

See more information below or on the website.

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.

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, and a talented Byfielder made a birthday cake for an important milestone so the lady had something to offer family members when they visited to talk in the garden. Get in touch if we can help you make your relative or friend feel loved.

Who do you know who should be signed up to



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



Shopping

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

Deliveries happen daily after 4pm of whatever it has been possible to obtain for you. We can not guarantee a reponse rate, although so far we've been very quick! Plan ahead if you can. You can of course call for help with fetching an urgent item request, but make sure it is made clear that it is urgently needed.

Currently, 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

The surgery plans to re-open at the end of June. Until then -

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.

IF YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE IN AND YOU ARE EXPECTING A MEDICINE (FOR EG, YOU'LL ALWAYS BE OUT AT WORK ON A WEEKDAY AFTERNOON) PLEASE CALL THE SURGERY AND MAKE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

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



The website is still live and available for everyone in the village - click on the [Byfield Bunker](#) on the website and 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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Neighbours helping Neighbours

Tr:



ByfieldGNS@gmail.com

www.byfieldgoodneighbours.com

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49 Boddington Rd, Byfield

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