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# Good News Neighbours!

## Village Newsletter



Edition #9 - 5th June 2020

**Dear Byfielder,**

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

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Good Neighbours will be here beyond the pandemic, eventually reverting to our 'odd helping hand' remit - which can include shopping and prescriptions etc – as well as our regular social events and enabling villagers to join in – via lifts or company – when the huge range of village activities are back to full strength.

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 journey most safely.

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?

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

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 **397 calls** to the helpline, plus emails, texts and Whatsapps.

We've delivered **586 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 58 other tasks** such as posting items, moving things between neighbours, organising jigsaw & games swaps, tracking people down, fixing things, IT queries etc. **Over 600 nice surprises** have been delivered to villagers' homes, co-ordinated by Jo.

We've delivered **1324 prescriptions** to households in the village and the surrounding farms. The record was beaten again this week - now 48 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%!!**

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## This week

The **Plant Exchange** continues to thrive with plants being donated and removed at great speed! Tomato, cucumber and runner beans have been in abundance recently. Why not stop by and see if there's anything you can make use of, in exchange for something you have plenty of! The helpful donation of lolly sticks for future plant labels was appreciated. Happy gardening everyone!

Despite the change in temperatures this week, **Nice Surprises** were delivered again, we've almost covered the whole village now! A host of bakers and deliverers did another fabulous effort, both with home-made and overflow product, and many villagers have been in touch to say thank-you for remembering them.

Not only cakes, but lasagnes, risotto, shepherds pie. soups, loaves, jams, jellies & dipping sauces were made and distributed to villagers who are struggling. If you are in need of some **extra support**, please do get in touch as there are a host of ways we are helping others, and you are welcome to turn to us, now and in the future.



We've made more than we needed, so jams and chutneys are available for £2 each. Pickled chillies were also created this week – if you'd like some, let us know.



### 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?

### Don't forget ...

Answers for last week are up on the [website](#) plus a new one -

Round 13 - cryptic 'Name that Plant'

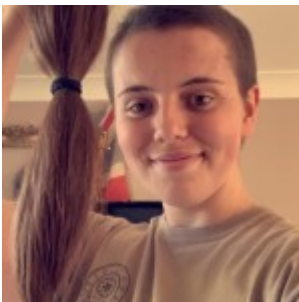
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## Inspiring ideas from elsewhere

We have been offered some free on line training for volunteers in Food Hygiene, Manual Handling, COSHH, Safeguarding, If any of these would be useful for you – not necessarily as a Good Neighbour, but for any sphere, let us know and we can sign you up.

### Smile of the Week

The lovely Willow is sadly moving away from Byfield onto the next stage of her life. She has been a fabulous Good Neighbour throughout the crisis, getting shopping in for us on every shift at Waitrose, shaving her head for Little Princesses, and generally being fantastic! We'll miss her, of course, but we smile for having had her with us this far, and we send her all our love and best wishes for a wonderful life!!



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

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### 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.

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**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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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.

### 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

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

[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

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 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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Update 5/6/20 Byfield Good Neighbour Scheme



Neighbours helping Neighbours

ByfieldGNS@gmail.com

www.byfieldgoodneighbours.com

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**Our mailing address is:**

49 Boddington Rd, Byfield

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