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Good News Neighbours!

Village Newsletter



January 2021

Dear Byfielder,

Happy New Year!

Same old, same old, unfortunately... we're here to help you stay home and stay safe in 2021.

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....

Some special thank-yous, from you to the Good Neighbours

Karen - if only you all knew the efforts this lady goes to! Thanks don't really seem adequate, but she has all our thanks anyway !

We have **regular donors** who wish to remain anonymous, but we thank you for your support in providing all Good Neighbours do it.

Alex V and her friends did a sterling job funding particularly needed items for some of our families.

The **Christmas Contact Team** who kept in touch with those in the village who were on their own over the holidays, you made such a difference to so many - both here, and for their families worrying about them.

Food for Heroes provided some really lovely Christmas dinner, which **Karen and the team** embellished beautifully. Lots of Christmas gifts

we've passed on your kind thanks.





Often the same people (but not exclusively) the Nice Surprises teams are still doing an amazing job with regular cake and friendship.

Several families have been supported with food hampers and Christmas essentials this year, plus pressies for children - thank-you to all those who donated, directly or via Pink Pantry in the Co-op.



to the surgery or for their vaccines.

Prescriptions are also still being delivered - thanks chaps for always stepping up at short notice.

The whole village should be proud of your efforts, whether as a Good Neighbour, or just in your normal lives.

Let's dig deep, be vigilant and keep going in 2021.

Lovely ideas during Advent

Did you enjoy the carolling + advent windows around the village? Well done to all those who made the efforts to bring some joy.

Go to our Facebook page to see the full range of windows that were so magically created.



Keeping warm this winter

means you are much more likely to get poorly:

Whilst you might not feel particularly cold, all your reserves are going in to keeping you warm enough, rather than defending you against bugs. If you can't move about too well, even 18* will be too cold.

Likewise, saving money by only heating certain spaces causes more problems by encouraging condensation and damp, also bad for you.

Please do not be cold this winter.

If you're concerned about your bills, please ask us -we can help in several ways, and there is no reason for you to be cold, as well as everything else we're having to put up with!

Ever wondered what 'safeguarding' means?

It's nothing new, in reality, but a catch-all term for what to do if you are worried about someone.

You may see unexplained injuries, notice a change in behaviour – perhaps more aggressive or suddenly very fearful, hear inappropriate speech, or perhaps notice things going missing etc.

Being a Good Neighbour, you're already doing the first part - we're actively noticing if someone needs help; but - rather than hoping we're wrong or not wanting to stick our noses in - it is the next part that actually makes the difference - what to we do about it ?

Good Neighbours have been trained on what to do in those kind of situations, so rather than worrying or ignoring it, you can call us in confidence and we will pass it on if necessary.

Remember, it is circumstances that mean someone is vulnerable, not their intelligence nor their resources. Someone unfamiliar with IT may be vulnerable to a scam, just as much as someone relying on help from another may be dependent on kindness that may be withheld.

...in a crisis, why not check that we can help reassure you or
them that all is in order, and call in experts if necessary,

Are you prepared for an emergency?

Don't forget, you do not have to be old or infirm for it to be a sensible precaution to get prepared!



We also want to make sure that you know, if – for any reason – you are taken into hospital, no-one is automatically notified – not the Surgery, nor Good Neighbours – and the hospital can not tell us if we try and track you down.

If you would like us to know if this happens – perhaps you have a pet you'll need looking after, or we can get you some food for when you come home, why not speak to us now and we can help you put some things in place ahead of time?

We can also hold your ICE information (In Case of Emergency) for your family members and friends who might be worried about you.

Don't forget to send them one of our business cards as well so they know how to reach us too. Ask if you need some more copies - we have plenty!

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? You can pop something extra in your basket when out shopping, and leave it at The Old Bakehouse, 7 High St and we can ensure it ends up with someone who will be grateful for 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

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, 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

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Shopping.

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

Deliveries happen once your shopping has been collated, but please note we can not guarantee by a certain time, 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 is currently open for prescription pick-ups at the back door. We can help with this if required - the process is :

Order your prescriptions with the Surgery (01327 265841) between 10 & 12pm, and 2-4pm or online.

Let us know when it will be ready for collection.

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 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! We have games, jigsaws and books & DVDs you can borrow. 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,

[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

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 have had support from the HS2, Tesco & Daventry DC . 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

Update 01/01/21 Byfield Good Neighbour Scheme



Neighbours helping Neighbours

ByfieldGNS@gmail.com

www.byfieldgoodneighbours.com

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