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FITTLEWORTH.**

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clerk@fittleworth-pc.org.uk**

**CORONAVIRUS
FITTLEWORTH PARISH NEWSLETTER**

Issue Date: 3 April 2020

Welcome to the new Fittleworth Parish Newsletter. The Parish council aims to send out the newsletter once a week with updates from various organisations and groups within Fittleworth as well as COVID-19 related updates from the District Council and County Council. If you would like your organisation or group to include updates in future editions please email the Clerk.

VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help to date. Your generosity with your time is grateful received by those who are having to self-isolate during this difficult time. If you would like to volunteer – either to help with shop deliveries, pick up prescriptions and/or act as a “telephone buddy”, please contact the Clerk.clerk@fittleworth-pc.org.uk TEL: 07411571500

PARISH COUNCIL

Pulborough Medical Group Pharmacy – It has been reported that the pharmacy in Pulborough is extremely busy and subject to long queuing times.

Tescos and Sainsburys in Pulborough have put in place queuing systems. As you can imagine at times the waiting time can be long.

A number of villagers have been concerned recently about smoke from garden bonfires. We consider bonfires do pose an extra risk to those susceptible to breathing difficulties and a particular risk at present. Please avoid having a bonfire altogether if you possibly can. On no account light one on a windy day.

If you need help or support, or if you are aware of a neighbour who needs help or support, please contact either the Clerk or Revd Dr David Crook at david.crook15@btinternet.com

FITTLEWORTH C OF E VILLAGE SCHOOL

Since Friday 20th March, Fittleworth C of E Village school have closed for the majority of their pupils. They have been continuing to support those children who have parents as Key workers and their most vulnerable by providing a daily service for these children. Although it has been an abrupt end to school life the staff at Fittleworth have continued to remain in contact with their parents and pupils through regular correspondence and online learning. The teachers post every day so that children can be given new ideas with activities to help with their learning at home. The school have also worked closely with the shop who are helping us support the more vulnerable in the village. We are grateful that we are part of this wonderful community and have been incredibly thankful with the moral support and good wishes sent to us during this difficult time.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

On Sunday, there will be an informal online family service at 9.30am and a Book of Common Prayer Matins service at 11am.

Anyone wishing to join either service is warmly invited to contact the parish priest, david.crook15@btinternet.com

You will receive an email invitation to participate via Zoom.

FITTLEWORTH STORES

General Update

The Shop has continued to be remarkably well stocked given supply chain issues experienced on a national basis. Although there has been the odd gap on the shelves general availability remains good and with daily deliveries of fresh bread, milk and fruit and vegetables and three times a week delivery of fresh meat the shop offers a wide range of produce.

Measures have been in place to ensure social distancing guidelines are observed and are continually reviewed and refined to ensure we provide as safe an environment as we can for our customers, staff and volunteers.

Home Delivery

Home delivery services are available to those who are over 70, self-isolating on government advice or ill with Coronavirus and living in Fittleworth and the surrounding hamlets. Take up for our service has been strong and we have a wonderful team of volunteer delivery drivers who deliver groceries twice a day, six days a week to those in need.

To place an order or check whether you are eligible for home delivery please call the Stores on [01798 865907](tel:01798865907) or email ordersfittleworthstores@outlook.com

Easter Opening Hours

Over the Easter weekend opening hours for the shop and post office will be as follows

Good Friday 10th April: [9.30 – 1.30](#) (post office closed)

Easter [Saturday 11th](#) April: [9.30 – 1.30](#)

Easter [Sunday 12th](#) April: closed

Easter [Monday 13th](#) April: closed

On Good Friday and Easter Saturday home delivery will be operating as usual. The telephone will be manned [until 3pm](#) on both days. There will be no home deliveries on Easter Sunday or Easter Monday.

Shop Management and Committee

THE SWAN

The Swan is offering hot takeaway food (Wednesday to Saturday, 5pm-8pm) as well as 'ready meals' to heat at home. The menu and products change weekly so please look at the 'food & drink' section of their website for up to date information:

<https://theswanfittleworth.co.uk/>.

Please note take away orders need to be placed the day before collection.

The Swan is also setting up a 'Pay it Forward' scheme. Under this they are offering NHS workers (including their families), the vulnerable and those in financial difficulty during this time a free weekly 'paid for' meal, with the option of either a takeaway or frozen meal from our regular menu.

Anybody who wishes to use this scheme should email their order as normal to enquiries@theswanfittleworth and use the words 'Paid for please' in the subject box.

If you know a vulnerable member of the community or a family who would benefit from a free meal, please pass this message on.

If you would like to donate to the scheme please contact Trewan or Fiona at the pub, or on admin@theswanfittlworth.co.uk.

Alternatively you can add a donation by mentioning the amount you wish to give in an email with your own order. It will then be added to your total invoice.

CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Advice on waste disposal

The government has published advice on waste disposal for people with possible or confirmed

coronavirus. Personal waste, such as used tissues and disposable cleaning cloths, can be stored securely within disposable rubbish bags. These bags should be placed into another bag, tied securely and kept separate from other waste. This should be put aside for at least 72 hours before being put in your usual external household waste bin. Other household waste can be disposed of as normal.

We are doing all we can to continue to collect your waste and recycling as usual, but there may be times where this may be affected. If this is the case, please place your bin out on your next fortnightly collection day. At the moment, our priority is to collect household rubbish and household recycling.

Please also keep a close look at our website www.chichester.gov.uk/coronavirus or follow our social media pages on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates on all of our services.

Hardship fund

The government has announced a Hardship Fund to support those residents who are financially struggling. Residents who are eligible for the support will have their award automatically credited to their Council Tax bill. Residents do not need to contact us to receive this payment because we have all of the relevant details. The benefits team will be processing these payments as quickly as possible and currently estimates that this will be done during April.

Council Tax help

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/taxandbenefitsfaq>

If anyone is concerned about being able to pay council tax bills due to the impact of the coronavirus, please let us know as soon as possible. The best way is to visit www.chichester.gov.uk/counciltax, or contact by email revenues@chichester.gov.uk If you do not have online access, please call us on 01243 785166. Please note that due to high call volumes we recommend using our online services in the first instance wherever possible.

Community hub is open

As a council, we are working in partnership with West Sussex County Council, which has developed a Community Hub to support the most vulnerable residents in our communities. You can contact the Community Hub if you, or someone you know, need help, or if you want to volunteer your services in these difficult times. This will be available seven days a week and staff will be on hand to respond to enquiries from 8am-8pm. The team will be contacting the most vulnerable to tell them how to get help. The best way to contact the hub is online; if you have access go to www.westsussex.gov.uk/covid19communityhub. A dedicated telephone helpline is also available for residents who are unable to go online: 033 022 27980. We are trying to keep the resources available through the hub for those who are most vulnerable, so if you do have support in place already, such as from family or friends, then please continue to use their support.

Coast to Capital small business grants

Coast to Capital has set up a Backing Business Grants Fund of £2 million to help small businesses and social enterprises in the region. If you have a business in the district with a workforce of between five and 50 and have been trading for more than two years with a turnover of under £10 million you may be eligible for a grant of between £5,000 to £25,000. More information on how to apply can be found here <https://www.coast2capital.org.uk/backing-business-grants>

Accommodation, food and support for rough sleepers

We want to assure you that we are also doing everything we can to help rough sleepers during the current crisis. We are especially conscious that rough sleepers face particular health risks and so we have offered accommodation to all known rough sleepers. The majority have taken up the

council's offer and are now in accommodation. However, there are a small number of long term rough sleepers who continue to refuse all help. In these cases we provide advice and guidance around the need for self-isolation and signpost to the support that is available. We will continue to support rough sleepers once they are in accommodation by ensuring that they have a phone, food supplies and are in regular contact with a key worker. Support will also be available through Stonepillow day centres in Chichester and Bognor, which are providing food and access to other services. It is worth noting that in order to meet social distancing guidance; the centres are limited to a certain number of people at any one time. We are supporting this work by providing staff to assist Stonepillow at the Chichester Hub. Sainsburys has kindly donated food to Stonepillow, Four Streets and Heart, all of whom are continuing to provide fantastic support to those who need it the most at this difficult time.

This week, our staff have been helping Stonepillow to make up food parcels and deliver these to rough sleepers in our district. In one day, they collected 500 loaves of bread and a ton of cheese! Thank you to our colleagues Sarah, Ralph, and Trudie, and to the whole team at Stonepillow. Great work!

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

West Sussex Library Services still available online

Struggling with self-isolation? Then the West Sussex Library Service want residents to join them online. Anyone who is currently not a member of their local library, can join for free at www.westsussex.gov.uk/elibrary.

Once a welcome email has been received, they will have access to the e-library service, where there is an extended range of downloadable books, audiobooks, magazines, comics and newspapers. Newspapers and magazines are free to download and there is no limit on the number that can be downloaded at one time.

The library team is also investing in hundreds of extra e-book titles for adults and children, which are being added daily. The team are also looking at innovative ways to have interactive rhyme time and knit and natter sessions soon.

Follow the West Sussex Library Service on Facebook (@WestSussexLibraries) or Twitter (@WSCCLibraries) to get the most up-to-date information or you can join the West Sussex Library Service e-newsletter by visiting www.westsussex.gov.uk and searching for 'email alerts'.

Registering a birth or death with the West Sussex Registration Service

In line with the General Register Office's (GRO) instructions for implementation of Coronavirus (emergency) Act 2020, the Registration Service at West Sussex County Council will not be operating face to face appointments to register a death for the time being.

Registering a death will now take place over the telephone and an appointment can be booked as normal by visiting www.westsussex.gov.uk/registeradeath.

If you are already in possession of the medical cause of death certificate, this can be dropped in to one of the following registration offices before your telephone appointment:

- Crawley,
 - Chichester,
 - Haywards Heath,
-

- Worthing.

The GRO has also provided further instructions on registering births during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

At present, birth registrations have been postponed for 21 days from last Wednesday 25 March. Parents can now make a claim for child benefit or universal credit prior to the birth being registered.

During this time, the Registration Service fully understands that parents may not be able to register a new birth within the normal 42 day period.



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Contact information: clerk@fittleworth-pc.org.uk

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