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**COVID-19
FITTLEWORTH PARISH E-NEWSLETTER
Issue Date: 17 April 2020**

Welcome to the Fittleworth Parish E-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 either call or email the clerk, Louise Collis, email: clerk@fittleworth-pc.org.uk
Mobile: 07411 571500

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The Village Magazine

The Fittleworth and Stopham Village Magazine Committee has decided that in order to reduce the risk of infection we should suspend the production and delivery of the magazine for the time being. The May edition will not appear, and the paper magazine will not resume publication until the likelihood of infection is substantially reduced.

We have a few articles which had been destined for the May magazine. These are:

- 'Around the Garden in May' – Beth Houlden's guide, topical and relevant to current conditions



- ‘Petworth Foodbank Report’ – how the Foodbank is adapting to new rules, and a list of current requirements
- ‘Petworth Festival – changed plans’ – appears in this Newsletter
- Michael Blencowe’s daily blog – fans of ‘Nature News’ will find that this will help get them through the crisis

If you’d like any of these articles to be emailed to you, please send a request to the magazine editor at: fpm.editor@googlemail.com

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Fittleworth Parish Council

Next Parish Council meeting

Emergency legislation has now been enacted allowing meetings to be held remotely. The next Parish Council meeting will be taking place on Monday 20th April at 7pm. This will be a remote meeting. The Parish Councillors, County and District Councillors and the clerk will all be attending Microsoft Teams. Please [click here](#) for the agenda. If you would like to submit a public question or would like to attend remotely please contact the clerk.

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News from the Churches

David is sending out a weekly e-mail newsletter to Fittleworth and Stopham regular and semi-regular worshippers. Please be in touch with him if you would like to receive this and also if you, or someone you know, needs practical or prayer support.

Services for Sunday 19 April, via Zoom

Informal service, gathering online from 9.20am for a 9.30am start

Book of Common Prayer Matins service, gathering online from 10.50am for an 11am start

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



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Fittleworth Stores

General Update

We continue to expand our product lines at the moment to meet the increased demand. It is lovely to have so many in the village shopping with us and we would like to thank all of you who shop with us for your continued support. We have increased our range of fruit and vegetables to include everything from radishes to fennel to grapefruit and have added many new lines in our chilled section to ensure we offer a wide variety of food (both basic, everyday items and some more luxurious treats). A wide range of bread, meat and fresh fish means that we have pretty much everything you could need.

There are still many issues with the supply chain and occasionally we find it hard to get particular items in. Yeast would be a good example of this – something there has been a wide shortage of and an item which we have not yet found a reliable source of (yet!). However, many of our customers continue to comment on how well stocked we are and we are fortunate to have consistent supplies of items like eggs, pasta and flour which many of our local supermarkets have struggled to keep on their shelves.

It feels like summer is just around the corner and many of us are enjoying the hours we all get to spend tending our gardens at the moment. We have a range of perennials and bedding plants and can order in 60 litre bags of multi purpose compost to order so don't forget you can pick up something to brighten up the garden whilst getting in your groceries. And if you need something to cool down with after you've been working hard on the weeding then we have Jane Bellinger's delicious homemade ice creams back in stock (both individual mini tubs and larger family size tubs).

Not everyone feels like cooking every day so don't forget we have a selection of ready meals available too. We stock both chilled ready meals and also the very popular frozen ready meal range from villager and caterer, Kate Knight. We have lots of Kate's different meals available (do ask for details of those in stock if you are ordering for home delivery) and they come in both individual meal sizes and a family meal sized version.

Home Delivery

Our wonderful team of volunteer delivery drivers continue to 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) (our phone line is manned [from 9am – 3pm](#) each day: do leave a message if you can't get through and we will call you back). Do contact us as and when you need us and as often as you need us – we are happy to take any orders however large or small. We still have plenty of capacity within our home delivery service so do get in touch.

Prescriptions

Finally a quick reminder that we have set up an arrangement with Cordens Pharmacy in Pulborough to help ease the queues at the pharmacy. If you have a repeat prescription you can have it delivered to the Stores for collection. To take advantage of this you need to either contact Cordens or the staff at the Stores and we will arrange for your prescription to be delivered to the shop. Cordens will drop medicines with us a couple of times a week – so please note this service is only suitable for routine, repeat prescriptions and not anything urgent. We are also looking into setting up a similar arrangement with the pharmacy at Petworth.

Shop Management and Committee

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Fittleworth Archive Resource - A Coronavirus Record

In the 10th April issue of the Parish Newsletter, West Sussex Record Office asked residents to help them document these unprecedented times. We would like to echo that for our Fittleworth Archive. We are building a file of village records showing the effect that Coronavirus has had on us all. It will be an important resource for future Fittleworth generations to share.

Original diaries and other requested information should still be sent to the WSRO, however **where life events during Coronavirus particularly relate to Fittleworth and our local area**, please send relevant copies of those to our Archive. It might be a brief copy of a family event, perhaps from a diary page, or a photo with a description of how the pandemic affected you locally. Written, sound (the Thursday NHS clap?) and photo, recorded 'clips', all with dates and names where possible and your own contact details, can be sent to: fittleworth.archive@gmail.com or phone 01798 865563.

We have leaflets/flyers/posters from our Parish Council, Fittleworth Stores and the

April Village Magazine, but would be grateful for Covid-19 related, spare copies of topical school, playgroup, local work or society's leaflets.

Thank you all.

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Petworth Festival 2020

We very much regret to announce that major changes have been forced on us as a result of the current health crisis. All events in July have been either postponed or cancelled, but, in what we hope will look like a shaft of sunlight in the otherwise grey skies, we are delighted to announce that we will additionally present a sequence of the absolute highlights of this planned Summer Festival in a special week of events that will precede the 2020 literary week.

The new **AUTUMN FESTIVAL** will now run between **Friday 16 October – Sunday 1 November** with a week of music and performance followed by the 10th Anniversary Literary Week.

We have already been overwhelmed by the support we have received from many of our Friends and Supporters, but the Festival will still need all the help we can get to enable us to overcome the many challenges the Covid-19 crisis has forced on us. As such we appeal to everyone who loves the Petworth Festival to help us survive into 2021 and beyond by making a donation, however small. Please click on the button below for details.

In the meantime, our overriding concerns remain for the wellbeing of our audiences, our supporters and our Festival team, many of whom are volunteers, not to mention the musicians and performers who bring so much to our lives.

We hope each of you stays well and we look forward to seeing you and to bringing you the unparalleled joys of music, words and performance later in the year.

Neil Franks (Chairman), Stewart Collins (Artistic Director) and the entire Petworth Festival Team

www.petworthfestival.org.uk

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Something new to find, pause and contemplate, if our daily exercise takes us along Lower Street 'Love and Science' by local sculptor Jon Edgar.

Chichester District Council

PPE – can you help?

Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF), which brings together public service agencies in responding to Covid-19, is appealing to businesses for vital personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies to help protect frontline workers delivering essential services to Sussex residents during Covid-19.

As the nation faces unprecedented demand for PPE, there is a very limited supply coming into the county for social workers, care home staff, firefighters and volunteers, with the NHS understandably being prioritised.

If your business or organisation has these vital supplies to protect frontline workers, we urge you to contact the Sussex Resilience Forum. We are short of items such as masks, hand sanitiser and gloves which are fundamental for the good care of individuals with suspected symptoms of Covid-19.

We are hoping that all types of businesses and organisations from high street beauty salons through to academic institutions that use these products daily can help us by offering stocks whilst they are closed. If you have any items from the specific list below, we would be very grateful for donations as soon as possible. We also ask that any suppliers that can manufacture PPE contact us urgently. Donations can be made by contacting SussexResilienceForum@sussex.pnn.police.uk Delivery and collection can be arranged.

- Eye protection EN166:2001 Frame Marking: 3
 - Hand sanitiser gel (greater than 60% alcohol)
 - Disposable overshoes CE marked
 - Disposable overalls CE marked
 - Disposable plastic apron (single use)
 - Disposable gloves (single use) EN:374/5 (Viral protection)/nitrile purple/nitrile blue
 - Fluid repellent surgical mask (single use) Type 11R medical use
 - Drager dust masks
 - Hand soap
 - Surface cleanser spray
 - Universal cleaner
 - Cleaning cloths
 - Disinfectant
 - Blue wiper roll
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- Industrial cleaning wipes (excess of 60% alcohol or a disinfectant contained within it)
- Jumbo toilet roll
- Paper hand towel

Post office scheme for vulnerable people

Post Office is making two of its products – ‘Payout Now’ and ‘Fast PACE’ (a pre-authorised cheque encashment service) available to all UK’s banks, building societies and credit unions so they can be offered to any of their customers who are most in need of access to cash simply and speedily during this national emergency.

The improved services mean that self-isolating or vulnerable citizens affected by the coronavirus pandemic can now contact their financial institution to see if they choose to offer these and arrange to withdraw cash quickly from their normal accounts through any local Post Office branch, with the help of a trusted friend, family member, carer or local support worker.

‘Payout Now’ is the Post Office’s one time voucher service that is available to all banks, building societies and credit unions to enable them to send a barcode voucher to their customers via text, email or in the post and which can be exchanged for cash in any Post Office branch. To find out more, please visit <http://corporate.postoffice.co.uk/our-media-centre#/pressreleases/post-office-makes-access-to-cash-products-available-faster-to-help-self-isolating-individuals-during-coronavirus-pandemic-2990603>

Waste and recycling service

Our household waste and recycling services have been operating as normal. We have redeployed staff from other areas of the council to assist with collections, as well as recruiting new staff. You can be assured that we are all working very hard to support our local communities and to keep our services running. We would also like to thank those residents who have been coming out to clap our workers and leave messages of thanks for them – our crews have been really touched by this. We’re also advising people to keep hold of old clothes until the lockdown measures are lifted, because it has been brought to our attention that the textile banks, which are operated by supermarkets and charities, are not currently being emptied. We’ve also seen an increase in fly tipping, so if you are getting rid of DIY waste, please either keep hold of it until the lockdown ends or make sure you use a registered waste carrier to remove it.

Council tax reduction scheme

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

More information is now available about council tax reductions available in Chichester District.

Every working age household who receives a Council Tax Reduction in 2020/21 will receive an additional reduction to their council tax bill. This means:

- they will have a reduction to their Council Tax bill by a further £150 (note: this only applies if there is a balance of £150 or more left to pay during 2020/2)
- that anyone who has less than £150 to pay on their Council Tax balance e.g. £100 left will receive £100 not the £150.

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. In addition to the normal options that we offer, such as our council tax reduction scheme, we have also been suggesting that people can pay their council tax in instalments over twelve months or even spread them between June 2020 and March 2021. We are trying to do all we can to assist people through these very challenging times. If you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about this, please email taxation@chichester.gov.uk or if you do not have online access, please call us on 01243 785166. Please consider using our online services wherever possible. This will keep essential lines free for those without access to the internet. You can find out more here <https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/33911/Council-tax-help-for-residents-in-the-Chichester-District>

Bonfires

We are continuing to receive reports of bonfires being lit across the district. We're sending out further reminders to encourage people to consider the health of local residents with respiratory problems and not light fires if this can be at all avoided.

<https://www.chichester.gov.uk/article/33909/Council-warns-against-bonfires-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

A27

Although our priority is to focus on our critical services and to support you through this crisis, we have also been moving forward with some of our other key projects as well. This

includes continuing to work closely with our Chichester MP, Gillian Keegan, and West Sussex County Council, to try and secure funding for the funding for the A27. Following a meeting with Highways England, we're pleased to tell you that the A27 Chichester Bypass major improvement scheme is included in a list of projects to be developed for possible future funding. Highways England has said that £300 million is available for preparatory work into 32 possible schemes nationwide - although only some of these will be included in its next Road Investment Strategy for the 2025-30 period (RIS3). This is great news and a very positive step, but we will be one of many authorities competing for funding and so we will need to make a very good business case for a major A27 scheme. We must stress that nothing is guaranteed, and at the moment, it's too early to say what any scheme will look like, but we will be writing to Highways England to ask for an open and transparent process to take place for all our residents, workers and businesses. In considering the options, we will also be asking Highways England to set out its reasons clearly and provide evidence for any deliverable and non-deliverable options.

My Sisters' House Women's Centre

My Sisters' House Women's Centre has extended its domestic abuse helplines to include 8-10pm in the evenings which includes live chat also via their website:

www.mysistershouse.info

We are still here for you.

Domestic Abuse Helpline
07787 394983
MON-FRI 10AM-1PM / THURS 5-8PM / SAT 9AM-MIDDAY

Employment Helpline
07538 825756
MON-FRI 10AM - 1PM

Emotional Support Helpline
07787 395102
MON-FRI 10AM-1PM

NEW Temporary Out of Hours
Domestic Abuse Helpline
Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri 8pm - 10pm
07984 728449

Resources and helpline on child sexual abuse (CSA)

The government wants to ensure that the public and professionals are aware of the resources and helplines they can access to help them prevent Child Sexual Abuse. There is support available through the Lucy Faithfull Foundation, such as:

- a confidential helpline (Stop It Now! – 0808 1000 900) for anyone who is concerned about their own behaviour or the behaviour of others – this can be accessed by any member of the public or by professionals who need advice on child sexual abuse risk whether they are concerned about the behaviour of an adult or someone under-18. There is also a secure messaging service available through <https://contactus.stopitnow.org.uk/>.
- information and advice on child sexual abuse through their website: <https://www.stopitnow.org.uk/>

There are also resources available specifically for children, young people, parents and carers:

- The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command Centre (CEOP) have just launched a campaign (#OnlineSafetyAtHome) promoting their resources on preventing all forms of online child sexual abuse; this includes resources for all age groups and for those concerned about sexting – <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>
- There are resources for parents on the NSPCC website about online safety and all forms of child sexual abuse: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

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West Sussex County Council

Protecting the most vulnerable has been at the heart of West Sussex County Council's response to Covid-19.

Since the outbreak of Covid-19 staff across the County Council have worked really hard to support residents.

The council's Cabinet will meet on April 22 to receive a formal update on the County's response. The Cabinet will be holding a virtual formal meeting, in line with new Government Regulations, as councillors aren't currently able to meet in person.

They will hear that following the Government's official lock-down the council, in partnership with district and borough councils, launched community hubs

across the county to make sure those people who are vulnerable, or have been made vulnerable by Covid-19, get the support, supplies and help they need.

Social care staff across the council have been working in hospitals and people's homes supporting residents with social care and health needs.

Hospital discharge hubs have been set up to manage how people are moving through hospitals and care settings and where beds and support are required.

This has been set up in partnership with local NHS organisations. As new patients become ready for discharge, teams are working hard to ensure that they can leave hospital as quickly and safely as possible.

Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.

Be aware of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits - these are only offered by NHS.
- Vaccines or miracle cures - there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Overpriced or fake goods to protect yourself from coronavirus such as anti-bacterial products.
- Shopping or medication collection services.
- Home cleaning services.

Protect yourself and others:

- Don't be rushed into making a decision. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.
- Only purchase goods from legitimate retailers and take a moment to think before parting with money or personal information.
- Don't assume everyone is genuine. It's okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- If someone claims to represent a charity, ask them for ID. Be suspicious of requests for money up front. If someone attempts to pressurise you into accepting a service they are unlikely to be genuine. Check with family and friends before accepting offers of help if you are unsure.

Be a good friend,
help to protect
your family, friends
and neighbours
from scams.

Read It.
Share It.
Prevent It.

#Coronavirus
#ScamAware



Contact

For advice on scams call the
Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 11 33**
To report a scam call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**

Scams Team

To learn more about the different types of scams visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk



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