

Heads - Up !

The newsletter for Headon, Upton, Grove & Stokeham

April 2020

A MESSAGE TO ALL RESIDENTS FROM HEADON UPTON GROVE AND STOKEHAM PARISH COUNCIL

CORONAVIRUS

I hope all residents are well, and coping, during the unimaginable situation in which we find ourselves.

The Parish Council wishes to thank all those people who have offered to help anyone who is struggling during the current crisis. If anyone else feels able to volunteer, please contact me using the details provided below. Guidance will be provided on how to manage any requests for help.

Similarly, if anyone is in need of assistance with shopping, dog walking, basic emergency maintenance, or anything else, and has no family member, or neighbour, in a position to help, please do not hesitate to get in touch. My contact details are at the end of this message.

Routine council business will continue. However, meetings scheduled for 6th April and beyond, are cancelled until further notice. This is to protect members of the public and councillors alike, hopefully help mitigate the spread of the virus, and to conform with government guidelines. Matters other than routine will be deferred, or advice sought from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) on an appropriate course of action.

If anyone has concerns about anything connected to parish council business, please contact me as shown below, or one of the other parish councillors.

I sincerely hope that we all come through this unscathed, and send my best wishes, along with those of the rest of the parish council, to all the residents of our four villages. I would also urge everyone to adhere to the rules set out by government so that the impact of Covid 19 can be kept to an absolute minimum.

Julia Harvey
Chairman,
Headon Upton Grove and Stokeham Parish Council.

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Village Updates

These are very unusual times and therefore it will come as no surprise to residents that all the events in the Village Hall have been cancelled until further notice. These include the Cinema Club, Pilates, Chit Chat, Friday night Social Club as well as the forthcoming Steve Tilston concert planned for the 25th April. Let's hope the events listed on page 3 can go ahead as planned.

Pat Thorpe is using his cinema distribution list to inform people about various initiatives which are going on to help people get through these times. If you would like to be included on this distribution list then please email him on paddythorpe@btinternet.com

Headon-cum-Upton, Grove and Stokeham Parish Council.

Brief notes from the recent Parish Council meeting held on the 2nd March 2020. The full minutes will be displayed on the four parish noticeboards.

A request for a crash barrier on Westfields Road on the bend just past the railway bridge was sent to NCC. They have feedback that they have assessed the site and a crash barrier will not be installed. They will replace the existing chevron signs with new signs.

The drainage issue at Main Street Grove Coney Green Farm to Yew Tree Cottage has been resolved by NCC.

Cllr Mosley reported that the land opposite Headon Church has not progressed regarding ownership and changing the area to a parking area. Parish Council to consider writing to the owner of the land.

The surface water drainage issue at Corner Farm / Oregon House Upton work carried out by NCC.

A structural inspection of the stability of the Grove War Memorial bank has taken place. Possible funding for the works from the War Memorial Trust with a maximum grant given of £30,000. Also, possible funding from Bassetlaw District Councils Listed Building Reserve.

Cllr Harvey and the Clerk met with Karen Tarburton the Rural Officer for Bassetlaw DC. Karen comes with a wealth of experience in the support of rural communities and Parish Councils. She can offer guidance about the proposed Parish Council open day that will now take place later in the year. She has agreed to be a guest speaker at a future Parish Council meeting.

We have purchased symbolic poppies to be temporarily installed on six lampposts in each of the four parish villages to remember the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on the 8th to 10th May 2020.

We hope that you enjoyed the recent article in Heads Up about the Parish Councils Lengthsman?

Our local policeman, PC Nathan Thomas will be leaving the area as a result of another job within the police force. He reinforced that all contact should be via the 101 number or 999 number for emergencies and to obtain a crime number.

District Councillor Coultate talked about the Bassetlaw District Plan. He encouraged people to look at the plan and if appropriate to provide a response. The Parish Council has previously provided a response to the plan. He further talked about the former Cottam Power Station and the future use of the site. He talked about uses such as returning the site back to its previous agricultural use however the cost would be prohibitive. A renewable energy site however, EDF Energy suggest that this would not be economically viable. A push from central government to build more houses.

Please note that as a result of Coronavirus and Government advice, the Parish Council has taken the decision to cancel the April and May Parish Council meetings. We will review future meetings based upon Government advice.

Contact details for the Parish Council Clerk Jim Blaik 07421057404 or headonpc@gmail.com

Forthcoming Headon Village Hall Events

Dates for your diary for when things get back to normal:

Weds 1st April - **Genesis**: as a warm up to their UK Last Domino tour later in the year, one of Britain's most internationally renowned bands are using the Village Hall to rehearse their set.—**CANCELLED**

Saturday 25th April—**Steve Tilston**—**POSTPONED**, to be rearranged

Saturday 13th June— **Barbeque**

Saturday 20th June—**Quiz Night**

Saturday 4th July—**Kick 'n Rush**

Seed & Plant Swap

Now that many of have more time to spend in our gardens, a seed and plant exchange is being set up in Upton bus shelter. If you have any spare seeds or plants then please label them and leave in the bus shelter. Help yourself to any that you can use. In the interests of safety please wear gloves, wash your hands and leave your plants in a sheltered place for a few days before handling again.

If a suitable place can be identified in the other villages then why not do something similar?

Books & Jigsaw Library

In a similar vein to the above, Headon Church porch is to be used as a library for any surplus books, games, DVDs that people may want to drop off for others to use in this time of lockdown.

To keep people as safe as possible, it is suggested that Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday are drop off days, Monday Wednesday and Friday collection. The idea of separate drop off and pick up days is that there is then a minimum 12 hour window between drop offs and collections where items are untouched. It may be tempting not to pick up another item whilst you are there dropping something in, but please don't for the above reason.

Please put your names in/on the items - they may be returned to you once we return to normal. All appropriate social distancing should be met, people should wear gloves, and 1 person at a time in the porchway (unless couples/families) at any one time.

Garden Supplies

If you are stuck without the necessary items to get your garden growing, Pat Thorpe has arranged with Retford & Gainsborough Garden Centre at Saundby to deliver once a week to the villages, should there be sufficient interest.

They have compost, tomato grow bags, seed packets, onion sets, seed potatoes (they may have sacks of eating spuds to sell also), a few tomato plants, herbs, climbers, summer basket plants (fuschias and the like), plus a large range of shrubs.

This would normally be their busiest time but events have overtaken them and they are left looking after a lot of stock. It is best to contact them by email at baandjcfoster@btinternet.com to discuss availability and arrange delivery.

Chris' Beekeeping Year—April

April is the month when the beekeeping year starts in earnest. Numbers in the colony start to build up rapidly bolstered by the arrival of oilseed rape flowers which at this time of year are the honey bees' favourite. It is also the time when bees can start to swarm.

Swarming can be triggered by many reasons, such as abundance of food, shortage of space in the hive or the original queen starting to fail. Swarming is the bee's natural means of reproduction, in which a single colony splits into two or more distinct colonies. A colony comprises of three parts: the queen, worker bees and nurse bees. When a colony swarms the queen and the worker bees leave the hive to find a new home, leaving the nurse bees to raise a new queen. The new queen will then take over this colony and once mated will start to lay eggs and the colony will continue.

A beekeeper can pick up signs that the colony is about to swarm, through noticing the production of queen cells. A queen cell is an enlarged cell which contains a new virgin queen. Once this is completed it will allow the old queen to leave the hive. However a beekeeper can manipulate the bees into thinking they have swarmed by separating the queen and the worker bees from the nurse bees and queen cell. The nurse bees and queen cell are moved into a new hive on the site, leaving the worker bees to continue to produce honey on the original site. When the new queen is laying, the beekeeper can either keep the colonies as two separate colonies or merge them back into one.

All Church Services during the month of April have been cancelled

Dear Friends

When I first drafted this letter, the impact of the Coronavirus was beginning to be felt. Having prepared the schedule of Services for April above, they are now all cancelled. In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that public worship is suspended until further notice. We had already cancelled our Lent Lunches and the Friday Coffee Shop we hold in St. John's at East Markham. We had taken advice from both the Church of England nationally, as well as the government, with regard to the administration of Holy Communion by enhancing our existing good practice in hygiene and had been looking at the best way we might offer pastoral care especially to the vulnerable and elderly.

These are indeed unprecedented times. It just goes to show that when we plan, we need to be flexible: "The best laid plans of mice and men.....etc."

However, just because our plans don't always go "according to plan" it doesn't mean that we shouldn't plan. Jesus tells us not to worry about tomorrow Matt 6.34 "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today." but that doesn't mean "sit back and do nothing". If there was no planning we would never get anything done! There needs to be some structure or else it would be chaos. We can probably cope with some chaos in our homes but when we interact with other people the chaos needs to be organised! Imagine the roads if we all did our own thing without any reference to the Highway code and the Road Traffic Act.

When my house was broken into a few weeks ago, my mind was in chaos and it was a while before I appreciated what had happened. But with the help of good neighbours, friends, the Diocese and the police my chaos became a plan of what to do next and is now in progress. So planning is very useful. Planning gets us out of the chaos, but we need to wait patiently for it to come into place.

The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah encouraged the people of Israel, exiled in Babylon, with these words "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." (Jeremiah 29.11 NRSVA) This, I believe, is an important verse for us to hold onto in the chaos of the Coronavirus. God has plans for us all especially when life is difficult as it is now and may increasingly become. It requires trust and patience in God, and trust and patience in those who have skill and knowledge to put the plans in place.

We also need to trust in, and have patience with, our neighbours as we live and work with one another so that the plans to protect as many people as possible are in place. They are plans for our welfare and not to harm.

If we can help you at this time or you would like us to pray for you, please be in touch. My contact details are below.

In the meantime, although we will be unable to come together to express the joy of Palm Sunday, the commemoration of the Last Supper, the remembrance of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter Day we rejoice that the resurrection of Jesus was, and is, the fruition of God's plan for us all.

Every blessing, *Bronwen*

The Revd Canon Bronwen Gamble, Rector of the Parish of The Rivers, Retford

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