

Bepton Parish Council

Spring 2020

Newsletter



Thank you to Oscar, 9, Amelie, 8, and George, 4, Tyrrell-Evans of Bepton Lodge for their splendid NHS rainbow

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update

West Sussex County Council has published an update on the current situation. It is launching a survey to gather the views of residents and to assess the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on your lives. It would like to know how your lives have changed, how you are coping and what your thoughts are on life after this crisis. Your answers will help to shape its response to the current crisis as well as its plans for the future. Please take a few minutes to complete this very important survey at haveyoursay.westsussex.gov.uk by 31st May, 2020. Delivered with this Newsletter is a leaflet from Chichester District Council offering help and support in various ways. More information on what services are available can be found on both the WSCC and CDC websites.

Midhurst Angels

A group of Midhurst local residents, the Midhurst Angels, are offering support to the residents of Midhurst and surrounding villages. The services they are offering include the collection of prescriptions, collection and delivery of pre-arranged groceries and a friendly voice to chat with over the telephone. Please telephone 07538 839703, or email them at: midhurstangels@outlook.com.

Bepton Parish Council News

The Council is delighted to announce that Mr Duncan Hollowood, who lives at the southern end of the village with his wife Helen, who used to serve on the Council, has joined us as a new councillor. Duncan retired at the end of March 2020 from a career in IT, working in a variety of sectors but most recently in the Civil Service for UK Export Finance. He started his career as a musician, a French Horn player, and spent ten years in the profession before switching to IT in the mid-1980s. He has served on two school governing bodies in the Midhurst area, and is keen on cricket and golf.

The **Annual Parish Assembly**, that had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus, will be held at a future date, still to be determined.

Planning: The Brickworks, Bepton Road

Please note that Metis Homes has submitted a pre-planning application to develop the Council Depot and former Brickworks in Bepton Road, adjacent to the Recycling Depot. The developers propose to erect 72 dwellings with associated access onto the Bepton Road, parking and landscaping. Metis Homes is seeking community feedback on its proposals for the site and will be conducting a 'virtual public consultation' until 29th May, 2020, via its project website: www.thebrickworks.consultationonline.co.uk. Please take the time to look at this as it will have an impact on Bepton residents.

West Sussex County Council Library Service

WSCC would like to reassure families that although libraries may currently be closed, the online offer is very much thriving (arena.westsussex.gov.uk). They have dedicated children's activities, home learning and wellbeing resources available, and the eBook and eAudio offer is proving so popular that they have added 1,300 extra eBooks and 450 eAudio titles to their collection. As well as around 32,000 newspapers and magazines being downloaded every week, there is a large eComic collection. The children's collection is all completely free of charge: simply sign in with your library card (families can join the Library Service online if they are not currently members).

You can keep up to date with library news through its social media pages Twitter @WSCCLibraries and Facebook WestSussexLibraries.

Recycling Centre, Bepton Road

The recycling centre at the end of the Bepton Road is now open. However, they are only accepting black bagged household and garden waste.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) & Village Gates

As reported in the Winter Newsletter, the Parish Council decided to go ahead and erect village 'gates' at the main entrances/exits of Bepton as a method of traffic calming. The gates were subsequently ordered and have now been delivered. They will be installed as soon as it is possible to do so.

Traffic Regulation Order in Bepton

As reported in the last newsletter, Bepton Parish Council is seeking a reduction of the speed limit to 30mph in those parts of the village where it is 40mph. An online Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) request was made to WSCC as the Highways Authority in March 2020. Following consultation with WSCC, the Parish Council is proposing a compromise plan that Severals Road, from the point of entry to the village, and Bepton Road, from the entrance to the Council Depot & Former Brickworks site to the Country Inn, be designated with a 30mph speed limit. In addition, in relation to Bepton Road, the Parish Council proposes that from the southern end of the proposed 30 mph speed limited area, a further buffer area, speed limited to 40 mph, is extended to the south, as far as Meadow View. We believe that these proposals are in the interests of the safety of the residents, those who travel on the roads, the many cyclists and the not inconsiderable number of pedestrians. A speed assessment will be carried out shortly and then this, together with all the reports gathered by the WSCC Highways Department, will be discussed at the WSCC County Local Committee (CLC) in November 2020. The TRO process is a long and lengthy legal process with no guarantee that any application will ultimately be successful.

News from St Mary's Church (from Mrs Sheila Ryan as 'Under the Downs' is not being published at present)

Lockdown

It has been very sad that the church has been closed and locked since mid-March so there were no services at Easter nor on any other Sunday. No visitors have been able to look round the church and leave their names and comments in the Visitors Book, as they usually do. The benefice Newsletter, 'Under the Downs', has been temporarily suspended because there were no services or events to advertise due to cancellations.

Keeping a sense of perspective about this pandemic, we have to remember that during the hundreds of years that the church has stood on its site at Bepton there will have been plenty of occasions when illnesses have been rife. In the days of Queen Elizabeth 1 a special prayer in the book of Common Prayer for 'the Time of any common plague or sickness' was used. In those days the ordinary people just had to get on with it, so it is hardly surprising that they prayed:

'O Almighty God, have pity on us miserable sinners, who are visited with great sickness and mortality;.....may it now please thee to withdraw from us this plague and grievous sickness; through Jesus Christ our Lord – Amen'

Our little centuries' old church is saying to us 'This will pass' just as did the Foot and Mouth epidemic in 2001 when services were temporarily discontinued.

We are mourning the loss of Peter Stern who died on 27 April 2020 (not from Covid-19). He was a stalwart on the Bepton PCC and for many years a lead organiser of the Annual Church fete held at Cocking. His cheery enthusiasm will be much missed.

Freedom Ahead

Coming out of lockdown is a slow and laborious process. It seemed unlikely that we would be able to gather in the church for our summer concert fixed for Saturday, 27 June 2020 so with great regret this Jazz event has been postponed to a future date to be fixed.

Two events which will take place are

GIFT DAY on Bepton Green on Thursday, 13 August 2020 when people are asked to give money voluntarily to the church (cheque to be payable to 'St Mary's Bepton PCC'). Our Rector will be sitting on the Green to receive any gifts and have a chat from **10am until 2pm**. In addition we plan to have a produce stall and a raffle so do come along to support us that day. If you cannot come then please send or give any donation to Sheila Ryan, Bayleaves, Bepton GU29 9RB.

PET SERVICE in the churchyard at St Mary's on Sunday 23 August at 3pm. We look forward to welcoming lots of pets and their carers at this popular event. Light refreshments afterwards.

Bepton Parish Councillors:

Chairman:	Rosalind Hart	815473	Julia Wilkinson	812041 (Footpaths & Byways)
Vice-Chairman:	John Beckett	813003	Linda Sadler	815535
Planning:	John Beckett	813003	James Beaumont	813737
Clerk:	Lorraine Grocott	01428 74133	Duncan Hollowood	812621
Newsletter:	Carey Bower	816738	(Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator)	
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