

# *The* DEDDINGTON NEWS

## SPECIAL EDITION

Not everyone is linked into the electronic world, particularly the older ones of us who are most vulnerable to coronavirus (Covid-19). Under present government guidelines we are unable to print and distribute a full paper issue for April, although we will do our best to continue regular publication online at <https://www.deddington.org.uk/deddington-news/> for the duration of the disruption.

This two-page print special issue aims to give everyone in the parish, especially those who are not on the internet and social media, information on the local help network. The 24-hour national news coverage of the pandemic can appear very daunting, particularly for the elderly and alone. Knowing what help is available in the parish we hope will help to reduce anxiety.

Deddington has been divided into ten zones, each with a team of volunteers. A card identifying the team captain, with their contact information, has been delivered to every household. Clifton and Hempton,

being much smaller, have a single point of contact. In case you can't find this card, all the contact information is included in this special issue, together with a full description of the community support network, information from the Deddington Health Centre which is changing its operating practice to reduce the risk of virus transmission, as well as the parish council and the vicar.

The village volunteers will have ID – please be sure to check this. Sadly, even the virus is fodder for scammers.

The regular April issue should go online after April Fools' Day – what are the odds – and we hope it may provide a small semblance of normality in this current adventure.

The *DN* team wishes you all the fortitude necessary to get through this immediate crisis and adjust to the new normal.

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

In these troubled times we realise it will be necessary for some of you to self-isolate. Whilst this sounds a bit daunting we want you to know you are not going through this alone and we will get through this together. We are remarkably fortunate to have so many people in our parish with a strong community spirit who have created a help network.

We must pass on our congratulations and thanks to Bea Maloney for so swiftly organising a team of volunteers. The parish council and the church are

supporting Bea fully and will do whatever we can to help. We would also like to congratulate our local businesses who are setting up schemes to help with home delivery and telephone orders.

If you would like to volunteer and have not already done so, please contact the volunteers listed in the next article. The more volunteers – the faster we are able to respond.

**David Rogers, Chairman**  
[davidrogers.dpc@gmail.com](mailto:davidrogers.dpc@gmail.com)

### CORONAVIRUS COMMUNITY SUPPORT

I can honestly say I have never been prouder to live in Deddington than in the last week. We put out online and through word of mouth a plea for volunteers; I never expected that within days we would be holding a database with well over a hundred eager volunteers!

Thanks to these volunteers we can already offer the collection of prescriptions and groceries, dog walking, phone support for morale, collection of large goods (van available) and much more. This offer is extended to those in the parish in quarantine or isolation; and not just to 'vulnerable' residents in the village. Remember that whilst you may be fit and strong normally, but currently 'just a bit under the weather' you may still be contagious. Don't feel you are imposing by taking up our offer of support; we all have somebody we would like to protect, so you are actually doing *us* a favour by agreeing to isolate.

We have set up a specific Facebook Group called Deddington and Parish COVID-19 Response Team where you can find all the latest information and support offered. If you are on Facebook, please could you place in your window or at your door an 'I'm on Facebook' note. Those houses without such a note will be kept informed by means of a frequent flyer and phone call. It would help enormously if everyone who is able to access the information online lets us know, so that we don't endanger our volunteers and vulnerable residents by causing them to come into direct contact with people unnecessarily.

The village of Deddington has been divided into zones, as shown on p4. Each zone has a captain, leading a team of volunteers. Please contact your Zone Captain; they have probably put a postcard through your letterbox already, complete with their

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phone number, but the list is also attached. If you're unsure of your zone, contact me (Bea Maloney) and I'll link you up. Your Zone Captain will either communicate with you themselves, or pass you to one of their team. Please be aware that this is very much a work in progress, and if people have to go into isolation, or need a break, your Zone Captains may change, but we will make sure you're fully informed and updated. Remember the name of your Zone Captain or assigned volunteer – they will provide you with ID when they come to you in the interests of safety and confidence.

A table of **Deddington's** zone captains and the streets they cover is provided at the end of this issue.

**Clifton's** volunteers are coordinated by Tei Williams and Ian Willox 01869 337940

**Hempton's** volunteers are coordinated by Janet Watts 07825 172600 or 01869 337135.

**AgeUK Oxfordshire** has launched a new telephone support service offering advice and assistance to older people concerned about the pandemic. Call 01865 411 288, leave your name and phone number and you will get a call back as soon as possible. Assistance includes a friendly, weekly call to see how you are and to problem-solve if you are facing practical problems.

Local businesses are being wonderful.

**The Coop** is going above and beyond. As well as frequent cleanings, and constant replenishment of shelves, they have instigated a **Priority Shopping Hour** between 9.30–10.30am Monday to Friday so please observe this where possible. If you are collecting on behalf of a vulnerable person (ideally still avoid this time) make yourself known to staff on arrival in order to avoid confusion. Please make sure you observe their 2m queueing markers, only buy what you need, and be polite – the staff are doing everything they can to support us all. They have also convinced their head office to obtain the necessary equipment to make it possible to pay over the phone to avoid the necessity of handling money (cash is a potential source of contamination and is hard to obtain when you're not allowed out). Hopefully this will be instigated by 26 March. They can also reserve goods for local vulnerable people through your zone captain, until the ridiculous panic buying ceases.

**Smiths Newsagents** can deliver your newspaper to your door, please arrange with them at <http://www.smithsnewsagents.co.uk/> or 01295 268499

**Eagles** are pleased to be able to offer a delivery service to Deddington and surrounding areas; to your door, or in a safe place for those in self-isolation or maintaining social distancing. All deliveries to Deddington will be free, with surrounding areas free for orders over £30.

All products in the shop will be available to order, either by phone on 01869 338500, or email at [info@eaglesinfood.co.uk](mailto:info@eaglesinfood.co.uk)

**The Library** has been instructed to close until fur-

ther notice. However, as a village we have a resource of some books available (frequently sanitised). Please speak to your Zone Captain if you have any requests.

**The Church** has had to close, but it is hoped that services will continue to be streamed online. Our very own Revd Annie is one of the Zone Captains, and moving heaven and earth (she holds a fair bit of sway in both, it seems) to make sure that your spiritual, emotional and physical health continue to flourish. She has set up a food bank inside the church which will be distributed primarily to the families entitled to free school meals. The church webcam can be accessed at <http://www.deddingtonchurch.org> and click on 'Church TV'.

**The Deddington Health Centre** will continue to offer the outstanding service we're so lucky to have on our doorsteps. Please remember not to visit your doctor if you have symptoms of the virus, but call 111 for advice. At the moment there is a post box for green slip requests for repeat meds outside the dispensary – your zone captain can deliver these for you but please ensure they are in an envelope to protect your privacy.

**Delmergate** is offering a free delivery service to all in isolation. They cannot yet accept phone payment (work in progress) but nominated individuals can collect your medication or other pharmaceuticals. Please speak to your zone captain about how to organise this. Routine stock may have to be rationed for obvious reasons; please be understanding. Repeat medications are likely to roll out automatically soon but in the meantime green slips can be scanned and emailed to Delmergate, or sent via your zone captain. Please phone 337583 to arrange your delivery.

**Hook Norton Vets** are offering a delivery service for medications as well as phone and video consultations. At home consultations can also be arranged, if it's safe for everyone concerned.

**The Crown & Tuns (pie pub)** is offering free takeaway tea and coffee to all NHS staff. Their staff continue to be retained on full pay, and will stand in to cook for care homes, hospitals and nursing homes. They are working on a grocery scheme and a takeaway option of their brilliant food, as well as take out pints. They have also offered the use of their van to the community scheme, complete with driver, as and when the collection of large or bulk goods becomes necessary.

**The George** at Barford will be offering takeaway and delivery food services – people can call between 12-1pm and 5-6pm daily.

They will also be freezing milk, bread and soup for emergencies and can order fresh food direct from their warehouse suppliers.

**The Deddington Arms Hotel & Restaurant** is currently sourcing the necessary items so they can offer a delivery service to the most vulnerable.

**Our lovely postmen** are offering to post outgoing mail on behalf of the vulnerable as well as deliver. Please be understanding of the 2m distancing rule and

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don't feel offended if they put goods on your doorstep, ring the bell and step back until you open to collect it.

**Crofts** pet supplies Banbury will do a monthly delivery to Deddington to look after our four-legged residents. Please keep an eye out for updates on how to arrange this, and make sure you are planning ahead so that you have enough to last you between deliveries.

**Things you can do to help**

If you would like to be added to the database of volunteers please send your name and street, as well as permission for these to be stored on our database to Bea Maloney at [mrsbeatricemaloney@gmail.com](mailto:mrsbeatricemaloney@gmail.com) or phone 337717 or 07957 655095.

Volunteers do not necessarily need to leave their house – a phone network of daily check-ins is being set up in order to make sure that 'alone' does not have to mean 'lonely'.

Think in particular of somebody you *wouldn't* normally phone, perhaps you find them awkward? Perhaps other people do too? *Those* are the people most likely to feel isolated. If you can, reach out to them (not physically though!).

If you have spare iPads or other tablets knocking about, perhaps consider whether you could do a basic set up for those in quarantine who have no experience of tech, so that they can make video calls to loved ones?

Come up with ideas of how we can support one another, or things that would help you, and speak to Bea or your Zone Captain.

If you know of somebody who is vulnerable, please make sure Zone Captains are in communication with them.

Think about something you do anyway that might be of use to others. Do you enjoy cooking? Growing veg? (The season for harvesting may be distant, but you can nurture them with love). Painting? Sewing? Playing music? Dog walking? You have a skill that other people do not. Speak to your zone captain about a service to others in the community; not even just to those in isolation, necessarily. *'Work is love made visible'* – *Kahlil Gibran*

**Things not to do**

Don't panic buy. Just stop it.

Please don't feel you have to be a hero and venture out even though not feeling well; let us help each other. Don't suffer in silence or be embarrassed; there is a huge team of people desperate to show how much we care!

**Things in the pipeline**

Eagles would also be happy to let elderly yet fit (and bored) members of the community have some food to cook for families, or for others in isolation for whom a gift of food could be a real spirit lifter.

We even have somebody able to offer financial advice to HSBC customers struggling to contact them.

The Pie Pub is working on takeaway and has many other schemes up their sleeves.

A moving street concert is being considered (small number of musicians) in an 'uncarol singing'-esque design, to which you can listen through a closed door. There are many other ideas too, including online book groups and cook-alongs but they're too early in the design stage to risk making unkeepable promises.

We are a wonderful community and I feel very blessed to be a member of it. It's a bumpy patch of road, but we'll make it. Keep strong.

**Bea Maloney**

[mrsbeatricemaloney@gmail.com](mailto:mrsbeatricemaloney@gmail.com)

**DEDDINGTON HEALTH CENTRE**

In response to the rapidly evolving Covid-19 (coronavirus) pandemic the Deddington Health Centre is changing its systems at the practice for the short to medium term to manage the increase in people who are unwell and help prevent spreading the virus. To avoid people, particularly those in the at-risk categories, being exposed to the virus when accessing care at the Health Centre and care for you as well as possible, we are asking you to help us as follows.

1. Requests for appointments will be triaged over the telephone, usually by a clinician. If we can, we will give advice or deal with the problem by telephone or video consultation and will only bring individuals to the Health Centre if absolutely necessary.

2. Please be honest about your symptoms. Before any face to face appointment, agreed with the clinician, you will be triaged by text message or telephone, to ensure that we have assessed any potential risks. We are asking screening questions to ensure that we keep you, us and other patients safe, so please answer these questions honestly.

3. Treatment room 1 will be a contained space for seeing patients who a GP feels should be kept out of other areas, so please carefully follow any instructions given by your clinician regarding your appointment.

4. We expect a huge increase in demand in the next few weeks, potentially lasting for several months. To manage this (in-line with other practices) we are temporarily stopping all routine appointments and monitoring.

5. Keep up-to-date with government advice and follow it. Self-isolate if advised to do so to help protect individuals, the community and support the NHS.

6. This will be a particularly difficult time for many people. Help neighbours, phone, FaceTime, WhatsApp the elderly or those self-isolating, be polite and respectful to everyone and remember that we are all in this together. We are here to do our best for you but we need your help to do it.

**Deddington Health Centre Team**

