



### Parish Council support for the community

The Parish Council has established a number of ways of supporting the community during the current situation:

#### WhatsApp Group

Our popular parish WhatsApp group is a closed group for the parish, to enable people to receive or offer help to others or to provide essential information. We are encouraging everyone to join the WhatsApp group by emailing [jeffmottisfont@btinternet.com](mailto:jeffmottisfont@btinternet.com); don't forget to include your **mobile number**. The more people who join, the better it will work.

#### Telephone Support Line: 01794 236987

The support line phone number is there in case you just need to talk, or have some particular request, such as needing help with getting shopping or prescription medicines. This may be particularly useful if you do not have access to the Internet, but it's available to everyone in the parish.

Our thanks go to the dozen or so volunteers from around the parish who are manning the phone line in 3-hour shifts from 9am to 9pm. Outside these hours a voicemail service is available for you to leave a recorded message, which should be picked up the following day.

#### Website virus information page

Go to [www.mottisfontpc.org.uk/virusinfo.php](http://www.mottisfontpc.org.uk/virusinfo.php) to find links to information on coronavirus from government and NHS, on physical and mental health, domestic abuse, protecting yourself from scammers, information for parents and carers, etc.

#### Website page on local food sources

Go to [www.mottisfontpc.org.uk/food.php](http://www.mottisfontpc.org.uk/food.php) to find information on various local food suppliers, deliveries, etc.

### Who made the painted pebbles?

I would like to say thank you to whoever placed the decorated stones around the village. We had great fun spotting them during our daily exercise, and they brightened our walks. So far we have seen five; my favourite is the ladybird.

Lesley Taylor

*Well done. Brilliant idea, mystery person! - Eds.*

### Using Zoom safely

You may have seen reports about Zoom meetings (Zoom is a popular videoconferencing service) being disrupted by uninvited individuals who for example make a lot of noise or show obscene images. To avoid this happening to your Zoom meetings, if you are setting the meeting up, you should:

- set a password for all meetings;
- enable the waiting room function so guests cannot join the meeting before you as the host;
- lock the meeting once all participants have joined.

You should also not publish details of your Zoom meeting on the internet or on open social media pages.

If you do not follow these steps you are putting your meeting at risk of being disrupted.

### HELPING OTHERS

Government advice on helping others states:

*You can leave the house to help someone, for example to take them food and medicine. If you are doing this, you must:*

*stay outside their home if you do not live with them, especially if they are at a higher risk from coronavirus or have symptoms*

*limit the time you spend outside your home for example by picking up their food or medicine with yours*

*stay 2 metres (6 ft) away if you do not live with them*

*not share a car with them*

*regularly wash your hands with soapy water for at least 20 seconds.*

*If you do not follow this advice, you could put yourself at risk of infection, or risk spreading it to others.*

We have also seen the following advice:

If you are delivering shopping, food, medication, etc., before you start please ensure that you have washed your hands and that

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**National  
Trust**

Dear friends and neighbours,

This is my last contribution to Acorn, as I'm moving on to my new role as Chief Executive of the children's creative charity Artsworld on 18th May. It is such a strange way to be ending my time at Mottisfont, with the grounds looking beautiful but deserted, and this year's amazing tulip display in the walled garden unseen by all but the staff team manning the property during lockdown. While I'm sure there are many in the village who are appreciating the peace and quiet, from the stopping of the usual commuter traffic as much as from the lack of visitors to the Abbey, I know that the virus and self-isolation is taking its toll too, with the loss or serious illness of some local friends. Our thoughts are with all of their friends and families.

Things may change when the government next reviews its guidance to us all, but for the moment we are keeping our countryside car parks closed across the estate. While the police said that they were relaxing their approach to people driving short distances for exercise, the government guidelines are still that people should be staying home and exercising within walking distance of their homes. We do not wish to encourage more people into the village from further afield by opening car parks too soon, and as the car parks are all small, it's hard for people to distance themselves socially when parking. We'll review the situation as and when the government guidelines change.

In the meantime, local residents are very welcome to access National Trust estate land using public footpaths. We do ask you to stay on the footpaths, for your safety as well as to protect wildlife – as some of you may know, an old well or borehole recently opened up in an area of woodland, which we have now fenced off until we can find contractors able to cap it. If you stay on the paths, you won't stumble across something unexpected and have an inadvertent Vicar of Dibley moment (if you remember her disappearing into that deceptive puddle!).

Just a reminder though that the Abbey and its grounds remain closed for now, so these aren't accessible, and the same is true for the fishing beats. Please stick to the open access land and the public footpaths, and you'll be fine.

I have to say, it will be very strange to be going into Southampton every day instead of coming to beautiful Mottisfont. I have loved working here, will miss the many friends that I've made here. I know that you will make my successor, Vicky Fletcher, feel welcome when she starts towards the end of July; she will I'm sure want to continue the positive dialogue begun with the Parish Council and others over traffic management, car parking and other matters involving the local community. Mike Greenslade, General Manager on the Isle of Wight, will be looking after Mottisfont until Vicky takes over.

I hope you all stay safe and well, and send you my very best wishes,

Louise  
Louise Govier  
General Manager,  
Mottisfont & South West Hampshire  
National Trust Group

## FOR SALE

**HOME MADE JAM, MARMALADE AND PICKLE**  
Large selection available. Jams and marmalade at £3, pickles at £1.50 and £2. I can deliver, or you can collect from my gate. All proceeds to St. Andrew's Church. Call Sue on 340475.

**PORTABLE EVAPORATIVE WATER COOLER**  
Corvair Magicool will cool a hot room by evaporating water. Grey, approx. 72cm high, 38cm wide, 30cm deep. Much lower running costs than air conditioning. £30 ono. Ring 340793.

## Smiling Is Infectious

*by Jez Alborough*

Smiling is infectious,  
you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today,  
I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner  
and someone saw my grin.  
When he smiled I realized  
I'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile,  
then I realized its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine  
could travel round the earth.  
So, if you feel a smile begin,  
don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick,  
and get the world infected.

*Sent in by Pat Francis*

## Fly-tipping in Test Valley

Test Valley Borough Council is encouraging residents to manage, reduce and reuse their waste following the county council's closure of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC).

Earlier this month, Hampshire County Council made the decision to close HWRCs in line with government advice regarding essential travel, to help stop the spread of coronavirus. TVBC is reminding residents that fly-tipping is a serious crime and is not acceptable under any circumstances, regardless of the closures of their local HWRC.

Gardening, spring cleaning and DIY projects are extremely popular after the government's instructions to stay at home during the coronavirus pandemic. These projects are a great way to keep busy and be creative, but often produce additional waste that would normally be disposed of at an HWRC. The council has asked that any additional waste produced is stored by residents until they are properly and lawfully able to dispose of it.

Residents can also try: Home composting; Using grass cuttings as mulch in plant beds; Cutting up and compacting garden cuttings and clippings as much as possible to reduce volume and store; Postponing some of your garden jobs until the coronavirus pandemic is over; Cutting down cardboard boxes and other recyclable products so more can be placed in your brown recycling bin; Storing any excess waste from DIY projects and spring cleaning at home until it can be disposed of safely and legally.

Environmental portfolio holder, councillor Alison Johnston, said: "We understand that people are trying to keep busy whilst staying at home, but it is important to dispose of the waste lawfully. We all have our part to play and we must work together in these difficult times.

"The law has not changed. Fly-tipping is crime, and it impacts everyone in the community. Our guidelines here are clear: store your waste until you can dispose of it lawfully. We would encourage everyone to talk to us if they aren't sure how to dispose of their waste.

"If you are using a waste carrier, remember to check their licence and credentials on the Environment Agency website. It could save you a day in court."

The council is continuing to investigate all cases of fly-tipping with a view to prosecute if sufficient evidence is found. All of TVBC's waste collection services, including garden waste collection, are still currently operating despite the pressures of the current pandemic.

## Mottisfont and Dunbridge WI



It was a sad decision to close our WI meetings but in the current crisis and after advice from WI House we found we no option but to do so..

Life is very strange at the moment and I am sure you are all missing meeting up with family and friends and the coffee visits! But we will get through this and come out of the dark tunnel hopefully in the not too distant future. In the meantime stay safe and heed the warnings given out from the government and medical people.

Hopefully we will be able to resume a normal life and meet with friends, and we can resume our monthly meetings.

Take care and stay safe.

Mary Batten  
President

*continued from the front page*

you wear gloves. If you do not have gloves then use hand sanitising gel both before and after the task. Do not touch your face throughout the whole process - wearing gloves can be a helpful reminder to resist this habit!

When you are delivering, leave items on the doorstep, then knock at the door or ring the doorbell and immediately move away at least two metres. Don't move towards the person when the door is opened!

Do not enter the person's home at any point - even if you know them well. You will be putting yourself and others at risk.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY?

Research shows that "most people ignore evidence that would contradict their beliefs, regardless of whether they are right. They are even biased in their detection of bias - they find it in other people, but not in themselves."

*(Darren Bradley, University of Leeds. See <https://theconversation.com>.)*

***Don't forget***

**[www.mottisfontpc.org.uk](http://www.mottisfontpc.org.uk)**

for Corona virus  
and local food supplier information



## From the Rector

As everyone else is also saying to one another, "what strange times we are living through". At the copy-deadline of the April editions of the parish magazines, it was clear that anything that anyone contributed would likely be out of date within a few days. This indeed turned out to be true. However it seems now that the rapid changes that the covid-19 pandemic have thrust upon our society and indeed the whole world have now become establish as the new normal for the time being, and most of us are starting to adapt to a new way of being.

I have nearly completed the full pass of my address book, trying to contact all of the congregations by telephone. One common thread from most of the people I have spoken to is how supported and cared for they have felt by their local communities. I have been extremely impressed and heartened to hear this, indeed I have not yet spoken to anyone who has complained about feeling left behind. I am grateful to you all for your community spirit and care for one another. Of course the challenge for us all will be to continue this thread of enhanced neighbourliness once the lockdown is lifted.

You many well now be aware that all the church buildings in the Church of England are closed, not just for public worship but also private prayer. This decision was made by the Archbishops in the spirit supporting the government advice that everyone remain in their homes, and to prevent church buildings becoming a means of transmission.

In recent weeks the parishes of the MidTest benefice have been worshipping at home, both through private prayer, and also virtual gatherings online. Details of materials to use in prayer and how to join in the online services has been sent out to an email distribution list. If you would like to join the email list please let me know: rector@midtest.org.uk.

Although all that is going on around us seems unprecedented in our own experience, it is not the first time in history that humanity has been overtaken by disease. That it seems so overwhelming is a tribute to modern medicine that has kept us safe from such realities in recent times. However events such as the Black Death, The Great Plague of London and the introduction of influenza in the Americas are all parallels. The backdrop of these events forms the lived experience of our faith which is able to provide words and theology to make sense of something so beyond our experience. It is a faith that has in its formational canon stories of the outbreak of plague among the Israelites in the wilderness, and in Jerusalem during the reign of King David. It is a faith that has developed an understanding of God's abundant love and forgiveness and the promise through his Son, Jesus Christ of a new world. It is natural for us to mourn all that we have lost and to be anxious for our future. But our faith helps us to see current events as a passing chapter in the great epic novel of God's abundant love and care for his creation.

# STAYING AT HOME

DAVE WALKER CARTOON WORKSHEET

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAW / COLOUR / FILL IN THE GAPS

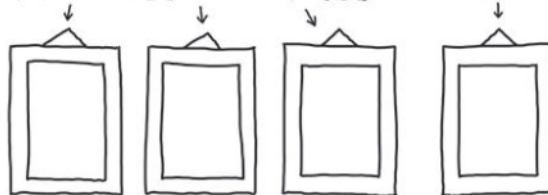
SHOE SIZE:



THE PEOPLE IN MY HOUSE

PETS

↑ COLORING



PEOPLE I'M MISSING SLIGHTLY

.....  
 .....  
 .....

(THEY MIGHT HAVE TO SHARE A FRAME...)

IDEAS FOR FUN ACTIVITIES WE COULD DO THIS WEEK



THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR:

① \_\_\_\_\_  
 ② \_\_\_\_\_  
 ③ \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES:

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