

CUXTON NOTICEBOARD



The Newsletter by and for the people of Cuxton

May 2020

Parish Council News in Brief

At the March Parish Council meeting some Council responsibilities were delegated to the Clerk and Chairman so that the council could continue to function, and the Parish Council finances safeguarded if lockdown was deemed necessary. Later it became necessary to close the Parish Office and for the Clerk and her Assistant to work from home. This proved rather more challenging than anticipated, however, the safety of our staff was our first concern. Although the Parish Office is currently closed residents can still contact the Clerk, by emailing her at cuxtonparish@btconnect.com. In an emergency she can be contacted on 07895 940668.

Bill Drake, our road sweeper, has reduced his hours to three mornings a week and is focusing primarily on keeping the rubbish and dog poo bins emptied. Please help him to observe social distancing as he is doing his rounds.

The April meeting of the Parish Council had to be postponed because of the ban on public meetings. At that time, it was unlawful for parish councils to hold virtual meetings. The inability to meet and make decisions was frustrating to say the least.

The law was then changed, and so Cuxton Parish Council were able to hold its first official virtual parish council meeting on April 16th using 'Zoom'. Holding virtual meetings has been a steep learning curve for the parish council, but it will allow us to continue to manage council business relatively normally until restrictions are lifted.

The parish council are keen to ensure that residents are able to participate in parish council meetings. To achieve this aim we would ask residents to send any questions/issues they would like to raise to the Clerk by **May 7th** so they can be discussed at the virtual parish council meeting on **May 14th**. We anticipate that by June we will be able to invite residents to join the virtual meeting and participate online. More details of this process will be included in the June newsletter.

Chairpersons of Cuxton, Cobham Meopham and Luddesdown parish councils have had the opportunity to engage in a virtual meeting with KCC Highways officers. The meeting was facilitated by Gravesham Ward Councillor Tony Rice. During the meeting it became clear that the parish councils share some key concerns that KCC have raised in their response to the latest Lower Thames Crossing consultation. One shared concern is the route traffic, especially heavy goods vehicles, will take once they leave the tunnel and join the A2. One important request from the KCC officers was that each parish council write to the Transport Minister requesting a change in the law that would allow KCC to stop heavy goods vehicles using our local lanes and minor roads through villages as alternative routes to the M20 and M25. Cuxton Parish Council intend to support this request.

The roadworks associated with the Bush Road/A228 Traffic Lights Trial is to be delayed until June. The reason given for the delay is linked to gas works that will require the same section of road to be dug up. The preparatory roadworks needed for the trial of traffic lights will be completed once the gas company (SGN) have completed their work.

The decision on the Homestead planning application should be available on the Medway Planning portal on 27th April. The Parish Council have submitted planning permission for the Pavilion development and hope to hear the outcome shortly.

Kay Hutchfield—Chairman

VE Day, 8 May



VE Day is a day commemorating the official end of the Second World War. Victory in Europe Day, generally shortened to **VE Day**, celebrates the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of armed forces on 8 May 1945.

Plans to create a memorial for those named on the Cuxton WW2 memorial in St Michael's Church have been disrupted by the lockdown. Official celebrations have been postponed until August, but the Parish Council are keen to ensure that this important day does not pass without acknowledgement of the sacrifices made, especially at this difficult time. See poster on page 3.

Corona Virus (COVID-19)

For health information and advice www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid19/

For Government response www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response

The parish office is now closed to visitors and meetings are being held online. The clerk and assistant clerk are still contactable while working from home on cuxtonparish@btconnect.com or phone 07895 940668.

Cuxton Noticeboard is still being produced and will be displayed on the Cuxton noticeboards and online on the Cuxton Parish website and their Facebook page. Any notices please contact newslettercuxtonparish@btconnect.com.

Bonfires: advice from Medway Council (Tel: 01634-333333) Medway.gov.uk/info/200176/report_a_problem/409/report_smoke_and_air_pollution/2

Consider your neighbours while we are all at home and avoid having bonfires that could pose a nuisance to neighbours. As Medway Council are not able to open their household waste and recycling centres at the moment due to government guidance please don't be tempted to fly tip. It ruins our lovely environment and puts pressure on services that could be better used on the frontline helping keep people safe. Those caught fly tipping will of course face the usual penalties. Services will resume as soon as possible. Medway Council are asking for your patience.



The Red Cross believes that little acts of kindness are important, now more than ever, and really do go a long way in times of crisis.

How to help your neighbours

If you are safe and well:

- Keep in touch regularly with family, friends and neighbours. A quick chat on the phone or a message on social media will raise their spirits and yours.
- If you can, be the eyes and ears of your community (but keep that social distance!) by checking on people who may be vulnerable or isolated and finding out what they might need. Can you pick up shopping or medicines safely and leave them where they can access them?
- No one needs trolley loads of toilet roll! Only buy what you need so that there is enough for everyone, especially for those who can't afford to buy ahead.
- Do look after yourself, eating, sleeping and exercising safely (even indoors) will help keep you well and more able to support others.

And if you have to self isolate:

- Keep talking about what you're going through with family, friends and neighbours – speaking to people always helps.
- If you can, stick to your routines around the house, as this will help you feel more in control.
- No one needs to go through this alone. There is plenty of support out there, jot down a list of numbers e.g. charities, your local council, who can give advice.
- Do remember that we're all in this together, you're not alone and people care, so use all the contacts and networks you can to get through this challenge.

CWB Property Ltd—Tel:01634 304326

CWB Property Ltd who are based in Snodland have offered a prescription delivery service during the Covid-19 crisis. This is for people who are unable to get to their Chemist to collect their prescriptions, because of lockdown. Please telephone the above number with your requests. We would like to thank CWB Property Ltd on behalf of Cuxton Parish Council for their help.

Josie Griffiths—Assistant Parish Clerk

Keep Calm and Keep Sewing!

Something truly fantastic is happening in Cuxton. Sharon Rose who lives in Bush Road, saw an idea on a website to make scrub bags for NHS workers so that they can take off their uniforms put them in the bag and wash them all together, avoiding any cross contamination. It seemed a great idea and Sharon decided to make some herself. She started using her own materials but then had the idea to ask the village if anyone could donate, and the response has been overwhelming. Donations of cotton, ribbon and elastic flooded in and offers from others in the village who wanted to help with the sewing. Sharon was then asked about scrub uniforms and caps and so had a go at making some of those too.



Sharon said that she really wanted to make sure that the bags went to the right people which has happened because of village contacts. The sewing team are still making bags and as of 25 April have made **567 bags plus uniforms and scrub hats**. Some of the recipients are Ellenor Hospice, Medway Hospital, Darenth Valley Hospital and MCH but also some individual carers. Any scrub caps not used by NHS staff are passed to the cancer unit for people to wear if they have lost their hair through chemotherapy.

Sharon said, 'I am so pleased at what we have been able to achieve as a village as every bag means that little bit more protection for the person and their family'.

Sharon and her merry gang of seamstresses (Simone, Louise, Maureen, Pauline, Sandra, Kay, Laura, Penny, Anna, Sarah, Edna and Mandy) have done something amazing and will keep on sewing until the bags and items are not needed anymore. If you have anything you can donate to Sharon and the girls (*duvet covers, pillowcases, elastic and ribbon*), please make contact at 98 Bush Road., Cuxton.

Well done girls on behalf of Cuxton Parish Council



The Coronavirus pandemic has prevented friends and families coming together to mark VE Day. Cuxton Parish Council invite you to hold a virtual "Social Distancing" Street Party in your own home, front or rear garden on Friday, 8th May to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the end of WW2 hostilities in 1945. Share your celebration on social media with family and friends but remember to keep to the social distancing rules if you neighbours are on their doorsteps or in their gardens celebrating too.

Things to do to get involved in on VE Day

- Decorate the front of your house with bunting, dress up, and make a cake. 
- Take photos and videos of your celebration preparation and send to family and friends, and if you can to the Parish Council **FaceBook Page** 
- At 3pm take part in the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' stand at your front door and raise a glass of refreshment of your choice and undertake the following 'Toast':
"To those who gave so much, we thank you,"
- After the toast join in a village rendition of "We'll Meet Again" from your front doorstep



Domestic violence www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-and-domestic-abuse

If you are in an emergency situation and immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police. If you are unable to speak press 55 on your keypad when prompted. This will tell the operator that you need help but are unable to speak.

The emergency services will sometimes be able to identify your location. However, they won't always be able to attend silent 999 calls if they don't have sufficient information of your location.

When it's safe to do so, pass your location on to the operator by whispering, redialling 999 when safe. You can only text 999 if you have already registered for this emergency SMS service. www.policeconduct.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Documents/research-learning/Silent_solution_guide.pdf. National Domestic Violence Helpline 24/7 is 0808 2000 247

Cuxton Birthday Board

Thank you to everyone who has messaged about the birthday board which is something that started as we all went into lockdown using the Cuxton 91 fixture board. It has really taken off and to date we have all celebrated over 50 Cuxton birthdays and used the board to thank key workers who are working so hard during this difficult time.

A number of people asked if there **was** a way in which they could donate to a cause as a thank you for seeing their name (or the name of their family member) 'up in lights', so now there is a Just Giving page linked to **NHS Charities Together** for those who wish to make a donation.

To date we have £125 donated which is fantastic, but I know all you lovely Cuxtonians are always thinking of others, so if you would like to make a donation please follow the link to the page and donate however much you wish. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tracy-thorley3>

The board will keep going for a while longer until the football season starts again, so while it is here lets raise some money for a worthy cause.

Thank you again everyone.

Cllr Tracy Thorley



What's On In Cuxton

White Hart	Closed, but offering a take away/delivery service. Please see the website www.whitehartcuxton.co.uk/ or 01634 789969
Cuxton Social Club	Closed. Any queries telephone 01634 718068
Golden River Chinese	Taking orders by phone, to be collected, cash only. 01634 296888
Sunday, 14th June	Big Lunch— Postponed until further notice

Term Dates: Academy of Cuxton Schools

Please note due to the Corona Virus (COVID_19) the school is closed at present, other than for Specified children. Please follow the school website for further up to date information

Holiday—Mon 6.4.2020 to Fri.17.4.2020

Return to sch. Monday 20.4.2020

May day & VE day Fri 8.5.2020

Half term Mon 31.5.2020 to Fri 4.6.2020

Return to school Mon 7.6.2020

Break up for summer Wed 22.7.2020

Cuxton Library—CLOSED

A few returned books have been put through the library letterbox. There is an amnesty for overdue books, but anything that was issued shortly before we closed was given a due date for sometime in May, so no one will get a fine. If the situation continues, those due dates will be moved on a further few months.

If anyone is desperate for books a drop off delivery can be arranged. Please contact Judy Frayne on 07913214252 or email judy.frayne@medway.gov.uk

Report Fly Tipping

Medway Council on **01634 333 333**,

Gravesham Council **01474 337 000**

Parking & Abandoned Vehicles

Contact Emma Patching on 07508 846937 or email Emma.Patching@medway.gov.uk .

Graffiti

The council will remove graffiti for free (even on private property) as long as the owner of the property signs an indemnity form. Email Emma.Patching@medway.gov.uk to schedule an appointment.

Stray dogs

Report to Medway Council on 01634 333 333 and follow on Facebook @Medway Council Stray Dog Service.



Next meeting - 14 May 2020

This will be a virtual meeting, please send any questions to the clerk.

Cuxton Parish Councillors

Chairman:

Kay Hutchfield 07762 772134
kayhut@hotmail.com

Vice-Chairman

Tracy Thorley 07884 343832
tracy.thorley@hotmail.com

Martin Burley 07777 644401

Natalie Jackson 07503 167385

Elizabeth Maisey 01634 727126

Edwina Morrell 01634 716352

Julie Porter 07903 780989

Pat Reynolds 07884202270

Hilary Savage 01634 723027

Simon White 07919 014909

Jakob Seger 07765 077198

Ward Councillor

Matt Fearn: 07739 706432
matt.fearn@medway.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: June Nicholson

Assistant Clerk: Josie Griffiths

Telephone: 07895 940668

Email: cuxtonparish@btconnect.com

Email for newsletter items:

newslettercuxtonparish@btconnect.com

The Parish Office:

The Pavilion, Cuxton Recreation Ground,
Bush Road, Cuxton, ME2 1EZ

Doctor out of hours: 111

Police: 101 for non urgent crime or to talk to local police.

Public Defibrillator: In the Co-op Store

Co-editors: June Nicholson, Parish Clerk & Josie Griffiths, Assistant Parish Clerk. Articles to be submitted by 15th each month. No publication in August or January. Unless otherwise attributed, the content of this newsletter is developed by the editors. Views contained are not necessarily those of the Parish Council. Every effort is made to check the accuracy of items produced and submitted. The Parish Council and newsletter editors accept no liability for other contributions, which remain the copyright of the contributors.