



Meopham Mercury

The Meopham Parish Council Newsletter No.19 May 2020

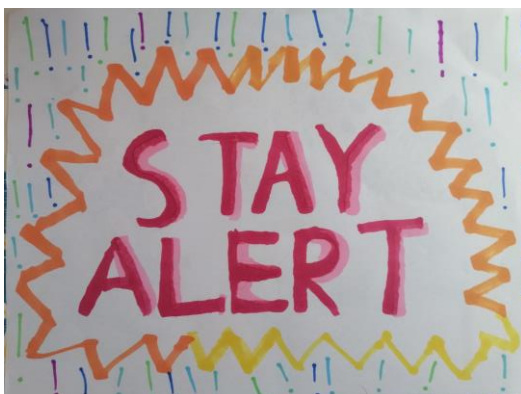
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF MEOPHAM PARISH COUNCIL

In this difficult time, I have been overwhelmed and immensely gratified by the wonderful community spirit shown by the residents of Meopham. Many, many thanks to the group who set up **SUPPORTING MEOPHAM, superneighbours** working in partnership with Meopham Parish Council and Gravesham Borough Council and the hundreds of volunteers who agreed to provide valuable services to those of us who have had to self-isolate. Special thanks must also go to the Co-ordinators and the Lead superneighbours. Information leaflets were delivered to every road in the village. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to local shops and services who have set up systems to provide essentials through home delivery.

Your Parish Council continues to function thanks to modern technology and I congratulate the staff for their professionalism.

STAY APART, KEEP WELL

Cllr Sheila Buchanan
Chairman, Meopham Parish Council



SUPPORTING MEOPHAM superneighbours

During the coronavirus emergency local residents in the Parish of Meopham are working together with Meopham Parish Council, Gravesham Borough Council and Adam Holloway MP to provide support to stay at home for older people, vulnerable people and all those who are self-isolating.

Do you, family, friends or neighbours who are self-isolating need help?

Our volunteers can assist with a variety of issues including:

- Shopping
- Collecting prescriptions
- Collecting urgent supplies
- Helping you make contact with other services
- Digital help, talking you through new on line tasks
- A regular friendly phone call.

If you need help contact us by phone or e-mail and we will find a volunteer to assist you. Volunteers will abide by the social distancing guidance from Government and will not enter your home but they will leave your shopping etc. outside your front door.

Criminals may take advantage of people who are self-isolating so please only deal with volunteers who have been referred to you by SUPPORTING MEOPHAM and ask for their ID.

This is a service run by residents for residents. We already have a bank of

volunteers. If you need help then please phone or e-mail us.

Call or text **07908 155669**, or email superneighbour@meopham.org

PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION SERVICE EXTENDED

SUPPORTING MEOPHAM Superneighbours

has now extended its prescription collection service to include over 60's, carers, single parents and key workers. We already have Volunteers who are collecting prescriptions for people who are older, vulnerable, and are self-isolating but we are now extending this service to other residents.

During the coronavirus emergency Government advice is to stay home and go out as little as possible. However, there are currently long queues at the Pharmacy in Meopham and these could be reduced if prescriptions are collected in bulk by one or two of our volunteers. Please call or text **07908 155669**, or email superneighbour@meopham.org for further details on this.

ADDITIONAL HELP AVAILABLE

KCC has launched a 24 hour helpline, **Kent Together** during the coronavirus emergency - **Tel: 03000 41 92 92** and **Gravesham Borough Council** are working with North West Kent Volunteers Centre to get vital supplies and medicine to those in the community who need it most. You can call **01474 337070** between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday

PEPPERHILL RECYCLING CENTRE – TO OPEN

From Friday 15th May, Kent County Council's Household Waste Recycling

Centres (HWRCs) will open to the public for essential use.

On Wednesday, May 13, people will be able to book a slot to use one of the county's 18 HWRCs which closed on March 23 as a result of the Covid-19 lockdown.

People can book a slot either online or by phone for the opening on Friday, May 15 - details on how to book will be released next week. Visit

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/waste-planning-and-land/rubbish-and-recycling> for further details.

COMMUNITY LITTER PICKING/GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

Message from The Great British Spring Clean

The aim of the Great British Spring Clean is for communities to come together, clean up their local environment and have fun, which of course means staying safe at all times. However, given the current situation, sadly we have taken the decision – in consultation with our partners - to postpone the Great British Spring Clean until September and would encourage everyone who has organised an event to log on to their dashboard on the website and rearrange their event to take place during our new campaign period from September 11th to 27th.

In view of Government advise, Meopham Parish Council has currently postponed all of its community litter picks and will advise parishioners of any forthcoming dates once we are able to resume with these.



Individuals can, of course, do litter-picks when they go out for a walk – wearing gloves as always – but we cannot advocate group events. If you wish to continue individual litter-picking activity over the next few

months then please do so but ensure you follow the latest Government advice on Covid-19 to ensure you are protected for your own safety.

MEOPHAM'S SWAP SHOP

The Meopham Community Swap Shop was launched on the 1st May. This great idea is the brain child of Cllr Sue Gofton and she is working with volunteer Gill Carpenter. They have managed to get this service up and running within a week. The Swap Shop was set up to help ease the boredom and frustration of lockdown and to support those who haven't direct access to the internet.

Meopham residents can bring their unwanted books, puzzles, magazines, DVDs to the village hall and swap them with something else to keep yourself amused during lockdown.



Social distancing is in place and safety measures will be observed. Only one individual is permitted to enter the hall at a time. You are advised to bring your own bag and wear gloves if possible. Any items received will be quarantined until the next session.

Venue : Meopham Village Hall
Times : Tuesday and Friday, 2-4pm

If you have any questions please email Sue Gofton at gofton.mayfield@gmail.com

Our thanks to all those volunteers who have helped and to the Village Hall for allowing us to store the donations safely.

PSCO REPORT

I have been patrolling the area and paying attention to the local open spaces to help identify and educate members of public that are breaching Covid-19 guidelines. I am pleased to say people that I have approached have been very receptive.

I have been busy gathering intel for the community policing team and liaising with partnering agencies to ensure local issues are dealt with in the most appropriate way.

Where possible I have visited the more vulnerable members of the community to check on their welfare and safety. This has been done in conjunction with the local authority and anyone needing help is signposted to the best resource.

As always, I am here to help. Thank you for your continued support.

Report from PCSO Rob Meader

DO YOU NEED AN ELECTRICIAN OR A DENTIST DURING LOCKDOWN?



Do you need to find a local trades person or a service during lockdown? To assist you the following lists have been collated for local services: -

- **local food delivery services** in the local area delivering to Meopham
- **hot or frozen meal delivery services**
- **support services** available in the local area

- **health professionals** such as dentist, physio etc available locally
- **local trades people** available locally for emergencies

You can find the above lists on our website on our coronavirus emergency page

<https://www.meopham.org/content/coronavirus-emergency>

VOLUNTEER SHOPPING CARD

Do you have a volunteer doing your shopping or are you shopping for family, a friend or neighbour? Both Asda and Sainsburys have launched a Volunteer Shopping Card. You can top up online with funds onto an e-card and email this to a friend, family member or local volunteer who can shop on your behalf. Visit the links below for further details.

- www.asda.com/volunteercard
- www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/news/latest-news/2020/20-04-2020-sainsburys-announces-volunteer-shopping-card-to-help-feed-the-nation

PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

The Parish Office: - For safety measures due to the coronavirus the Parish Office is now closed. You can still contact the parish office via email at

clerk@meopham.org or please leave a message on **01474 813779** with your name and telephone number and a short message. Answerphone messages will be checked daily during working hours. (9am-12 midday)

Parish Council Meetings: - All Parish Council meetings are cancelled until further notice. We hope to set a new date for the Annual Parish Meeting, which should have taken place on 28th April 2020. The Parish Council are looking into holding virtual meetings if necessary.

Judson's Recreation Ground: -

Please note that due to Covid-19, the children's play equipment area is closed until further notice.

Pitfield Green Toilets: - The Parish Council has kept the public toilets open throughout lockdown, thanks to May Harris, who service this facility daily.

Our various contractors have been able to keep up with maintaining our open spaces whilst social distancing. This has included litter picking, cleansing the bus shelters, replacing posts and refurbishing a notice board ready to put up at Culverstone.

NHS HEARTS ON THE A227

Who painted the NHS hearts on the A227 remains a mystery? Perhaps we have our own Banksy living in Meopham?



WOULD YOU LIKE A FRIENDLY CHAT DURING LOCKDOWN?

We know that many residents in the parish who are living on their own may be feeling extremely lonely and isolated during lockdown. **SUPPORTING MEOPHAM**, Superneighbours have volunteers available who can call you on a regular basis to provide a friendly chat. If you feel that this is something that you would like, then please call or text **07908 155669**, or email superneighbour@meopham.org for further details on this.

SPEEDING ON THE A227

Unfortunately, despite the decline in traffic out and about on the roads, the Parish Council has received a number of reports that people are speeding in 30-mile areas along the A227. The Traffic Police will be making regular checks with their speed cameras and as soon as it is safe to do so, we will be starting up Speedwatch. We are still looking for a few more Speedwatch volunteers so please contact the clerk for more details.



VE DAY CELEBRATIONS



Although the VE day programme of events planned for Meopham had to be cancelled due to coronavirus, this didn't stop lots of residents in the parish decorating their homes and gardens and holding social distancing parties with their neighbours in their front gardens.



MEOPHAM PARISH COUNCILLORS

Hook Green & Nurstead Ward

Sue Gofton, Michael Mulheran
Jo McTavish and John Ogden
(Vice Chairman)

Camer & Meopham Green Ward

Sheila Buchanan (Chairman),
Barbara Wade, Steve Innes and
Gordon Madgwick

Culverstone & Harvel Ward

Max Bramer, Dawn Bramer,
Pat Luxford and Andy Rose

Parish Office Staff

Sarah Eggesden (Clerk)
Nicki Jerram and Jo Barker (Clerical
Assistants)

HOW TO CONTACT THE PARISH COUNCIL

Due to the coronavirus we are only able to produce an online version of the Meopham Mercury. Please tell your friends and neighbours about this being available on the parish council website and social media pages, along with lots of other useful local information

- E-mail at clerk@meopham.org
- Leave a message on our answerphone – 01474 813779
- www.meopham.org
- Facebook 'Meopham Parish Council'
- Twitter @meophamPC