

WINSHAM E-LETTER

No.590

21st March, 2020



A great picture taken during the emergency meeting of the Winsham Parish Council on Tuesday evening, 17th March. Note the social distancing to minimise possible infection. Picture taken by Cllr. Henk Beentje. The tradition of 128years, uninterrupted, of parish council meetings being held in the hall continues despite wars and pestilence!

Hi All,

Because of the Corona Virus Emergency, practically all our community activity plans for the next few months have been put on hold, and most of the village resources have been temporarily closed. The exceptions are Winsham Shop and Post Office and The Bell. Despite being unable to operate as a pub, The Bell is

continuing to provide off license sales, takeaway and home delivered hot food, and supplying, to order, uncooked meat and vegetables.

How fortunate we are to have these two important resources still available to us.

I should also like to thank, on behalf of all of us, Winsham Parish Council, and Winsham Shop Management Committee for the tremendous amount of work they have put in to ensure that all Winsham's residents, particularly the elderly and those at special risk from the Corona Virus, are protected as much as is possible from infection.

An important document has been circulated throughout the Parish to every household explaining these provisions, and of course digital copies can be obtained from the Parish Council Portal page on the Parish Web site from the link below

Both organisations have had a difficult time in recent years, but the new Parish Council, a new and inexperienced team, under the Chairmanship of Stuart Davies, and with the support of Rose Richards, our new Parish Clerk, have risen magnificently to a challenge which was unimagined less than twelve months ago, when they were all newly elected at the 'hustings'. The Winsham Shop Management has been unbelievably resilient after many setbacks, but are as dynamic as ever.

Give credit where credit is due.

We have no option but to make the best of the present situation- but **it will pass**- hopefully by the end of Summer-maybe sooner.

With the many entertainments and diversions removed, just think of all those jobs around the house you can now find time for; all the cupboards and drawers that are long overdue a tidy, and that bit of decorating. We can also take the opportunity to phone friends who we haven't spoken to for a while. Why not make that start on that new hobby which we have not had the time to get going on. YouTube is a good place to begin!

Get outside, if you have a garden, and are fit enough, and start 'digging for Britain'-grow a few vegetables! If you have young children, get them to do the digging, and show them how to plant and nurture seeds. All this takes me back to my childhood during the War!

One good thing that has come out of all this- there is hardly a word in the media about Global Warming, our exit from the EU, or Isis!

Please visit the Parish Council and Shop areas on the Parish Web site, and it's Home Page on a regular basis, and also the Winsham Community Page on Facebook to stay informed. The e-letter cannot cover everything.

The format of the E-Letter may well change a little for the time being, as there will not be the number of events to promote and report upon, but please keep your pictures and news coming in. I am sure that there will be plenty to report upon. Certainly, I shall keep it going.

Did you know who the Patron Saint of Epidemics and Pandemics is St Corona! An early Christian martyr, from the time of Marcus Aurelius. She lived in Northern Italy. Now there's a coincidence. Or was it the foresight of the scientist who named this family of viruses? Not a lot of people know that!

Something for older residents to think about. A personal opinion.

It seems that most of the steps have now been taken that can be taken to minimise the spread of Corvid-19. So now is the time for those of us who fall into 'vulnerable categories' because of age or pre-existing medical conditions, or both, to consider how we can be practical and sensible about self imposed and social isolation.

For those in these categories, and who are not working, we owe it to other residents of Winsham to follow the ideas that have been set out by Government. It comes down to the less we physically interact with one and other, and the world outside our homes, the less likely we are to become victims. Jan and I still go to the shop, but we do not linger, and we wear latex gloves. When the infection comes to Winsham, perhaps sooner, we will most likely ask for groceries to be delivered. We each have to make our own decisions on these matters. Thank goodness for an almost cashless society.

One thing we should carry in mind-if as individuals we are inclined to take risks, and as a result we become infected, we then inevitably become a carrier with the ability to infect others. To say nothing of the unpleasant and potentially lethal infection we will have to suffer.

We then become a burden and source of worry to our families, and the NHS, who need all their resources to support the general population, some of whom are still working despite being vulnerable due to pre-existing conditions.

Remember, we have all sorts of ways of communicating with one and other without any risk. Phone, Skype, text messaging, e-mail and all sorts of social media. So it is not that difficult.



It's being so cheerful that keeps me going!*

John

Source: Mona Lott-ITMA (1940 or thereabouts)

PS. I have to end this e-letter with some very sad news that I have just received. James Goddard died this morning, in hospital. He was taken into hospital on Monday I understand. The problem was not Corona Virus related. Our prayers and condolences go to Trish and the family.



Each week we dip into a part of the Winsham Web Museum. This week: If the Supermarket horror stories concern you, read about rationing in the war, and some of the deprivations that were endured, for the most part with stoicism. For younger readers, 2oz equals 57grams. Today you would need £55.35 to buy what £1 would buy then.

Winsham Art Club	Cancelled till further notice	
St. Margaret's Hospice	Need your help.	Click HERE for details
Winsham Horticultural Society	<p>**</p> <p>Plant Sale likely to be relocated</p> <p>**</p> <p>Give and Buy Sale likely to be relocated</p> <p>**</p> <p>Report on Pruning Workshop</p>	Click HERE for details



The Bell is currently unable to operate as a Public House, by law, due to the Corona virus. Until this facility is restored it will continue to supply take-away and delivered hot meals (in Winsham village).Uncooked meat and vegetables can be supplied to order. Off-license sales.

PLEASE NOTE:
The BELL will be closed on Sunday evenings and on Monday (all-day).
Sunday Lunch can be provided as a take-away-please bring our own plate. Can also be delivered.

[Click here for web page and Facebook link](#)

Click on link above and scroll down

Ilminster Literary Festival	Cancelled	
Winsham Web Museum	Nature Diary 2019 The fourth diary by Liz Earl can now be viewed	Click HERE
Jubilee Hall WE really need the money!	Jubilee Hall Lottery 2020 Tickets on sale at Winsham Post Office until 27th March	Click HERE for details
Winsham Aikido Club	Suspended for the time being	Click HERE
Winsham Street Fair Committee	Street Fair postponed until next year	Click HERE for details
WINSHAM SHOP & POST OFFICE Important-visit this link on a regular basis, while the Corona Virus emergency exists	Visit their web page and Winsham Community Facebook and Winsham Shop Facebook pages for the latest news	Click HERE for details
WINSHAM ART CLUB	Postponed until further notice	Click HERE
N'bourhood Watch New 'Corona' based scams	More telephone scams. Be warned! Be alert! Download 'Little Book of Big Scams	Click HERE
Zoe's Mobile Catering Still operating	Monday evenings-Western Way	Click HERE

<p>St.Stephen's Church</p> 	<p>All Church Services are cancelled. The music event , news of which was published a few days ago will not take place due to government restrictions</p>	<p>Click HERE</p>
<p>WINSHAM PARISH COUNCIL</p>	<p>CORONA VIRUS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ***</p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting Likely to be delayed ***</p> <p>Allotments available ***</p> <p>St. Margaret's Hospice need volunteers ***</p> <p>Travel Somerset Web Links ***</p> <p>Road Closure Near Westport Lodge and Kilema Farm ***</p>  <p>***</p> <p>Parish Councils Surgeries ***</p> <p>Somerset Health Walks ***</p>	<p>Click HERE- Scroll down as necessary</p>
<p>The NEW Winsham Market Place</p>	<p>Support your local suppliers See details for new advertisers</p>	<p>Click HERE</p> 

Your essential Guide to Winsham Parish Web Site Content UPDATED	Please read to get the most from the Winsham Parish Web Site	Click HERE
	Ongoing service information service for older residents, their family and friends and those who care	Click HERE
<u>For all newcomers to the Parish</u>	WINSHAM'S 'WELCOME PACK'	Click HERE
Somerset Museums UPDATED-a really useful web site.	Gives you details of most of the Museums in Somerset. Closures likely due to Corona Virus Emergency	Click HERE NEW LINK
	FUTURE EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY	
Winsham Horticultural Society	Plant Sale Saturday, 2nd May Venue to be changed	Click HERE For details



Take a picture of your pet-you never know when you will wish you had!

The Winsham e- letter will always help find missing pets.

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