

Burghfield Newsletter

Your Parish
Your Council



A free publication offering a roundup of news, views and information.

June 2020



Thank You Burghfield

During this extraordinary time we are living through,

there are extraordinary people doing extraordinary things for our community. In this special edition of the Burghfield Parish Council Newsletter we want to recognise some of those who have put their heads above the parapet and are contributing so much to the welfare of others.

We, in Burghfield, are so lucky to have so many people willing and able to help others.

The number of volunteers, good



Samaritans and caring people is quite outstanding.

It is not possible to recognise everyone but we have highlighted a few who represent just the tip of the iceberg.

For every person, organisation or business we have mentioned there are countless others who are "doing their bit".

To those who are mentioned and those many more who are not,

THANK YOU
Burghfield Parish Council



Chairman's Report



Tim, Burghfield Parish Council Chairman

View from Chair

This month marks my first anniversary of becoming the Chair of Burghfield Parish Council. To say that a lot has happened and changed during my first year would be an understatement.

We have all had our daily lives changed in ways we could not have imagined at the beginning of the year. Many of the things in our lives we took for granted, or hardly spared a thought about, have stopped or changed and the community events many of us were looking forward to at this time of the year had to be cancelled.

These changes have not only affected the way I behave on a daily basis (suddenly it is polite to cross the road to avoid someone walking towards you, even if you know them) but also to really appreciate where we all live. Not only just how lucky we are to live in an area

with so much open space and countryside, that exercising outside can easily be done whilst social distancing but also what a great community we all share.

The great community we live in can be seen in the volunteer groups who quickly set up to help support the vulnerable in our community through to the significant increase in the number of cheery "hellos" from people as they walk down the street.

As the restrictions on our lives are gradually lifted and we can restart the plans we had at the beginning of the year, I will be trying hard to make sure I remember the good and surprising things I learnt during this time. Not only how great Burghfield is, but things like my wife really can cut my hair and barbequed cauliflower is tasty.

Keep safe and well. **Tim**

How else can you access the parish newsletter?

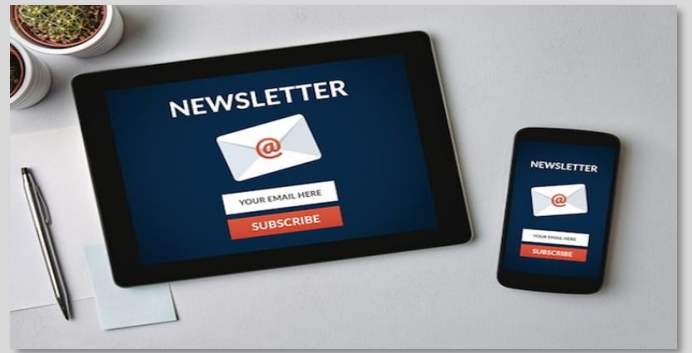
You can download a copy of the parish newsletter through our website

<https://burghfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk/newsletters/>,

alternatively you may prefer to be sent a copy via email.

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter through your door, then please let us know so we can remove your house address from our mailing list or provide an email address where we can send your copy;

enquiries@burghfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk



Burghfield Neighbourhood Development Plan - NDP

This is a brief note to tell you that although the Committee has been unable to meet to discuss progress, a subgroup is preparing the first draft of the document itself. Progress is slow because we cannot so easily discuss it utilising the "Zoom" conference call

facility as we are obviously not face to face and when we read it through a number of points arise which need further research.

However the questionnaire that Burghfield residents completed last year and the West Berks Planning HELAA

(Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment) are providing invaluable sources of information. So, despite these challenging times our work goes on.

www.burghfieldndp.co.uk



A Burghfield Community Who Came Together in A Crisis

Out of a random thought on the sofa on a Sunday evening our "Burghfield Community Self Isolate support group" was born..... I set up the Facebook group while watching the news about the unfolding events surrounding the Coronavirus.

Knowing my own Mother in Law was self-isolating at home alone, I thought there must be many people like her worrying about how they were going to get through this. Within hours we had more than 200 members and within 48 hours we had a large group of volunteers offering their time and effort to leaflet drop to all the houses in Burghfield Village and Common.

Today we have over 1,000 members and more than 6,000 posts on the group. The help people have offered has come in

so many different forms, from shopping to baking, from emotional support to offering handyman services to people in need. This group has shown how a community has come together in a time of crisis to support each other.

The wonderful thing about all of this is that I believe this community is made of so much more and will extend beyond the Coronavirus into what you could call a big family.

We look forward to all the happy events we will enjoy and celebrate after all of this is over. We should be all proud to live in such a caring community.

Burghfield Self - Isolate Group



Burghfield Resident Association



almost booked by mid-March we will never know.

Sarah Gregory, again her prizes for the famous raffle never go unmissed, and also the children's drawings for the programme, they are shown here and prizes honored. John Coleman, Colin Thompson, Duncan Godding, Ian Morrin, Luke Mason and all others that have jumped in to help.

Finally, stall holders. We have made communication with all stall holders that booked.

Dave Godwin and his team on the Burghfield Residents Association have assured us that it will be held again next year in all its glory.

Once more we will raise thousands for charities.

Once more we will enjoy the sight of children singing, dancing, fighting (that's demonstrating their martial arts skills not brawling), getting impossibly entangled



around the May pole and enjoying the thrills of the Fun Fair.

Once more we will listen to brass bands, steel bands, military bands and hymns from the morning church service.

Once more we will indulge ourselves at the Tea tent, at the barbeque, at the Burghfield Spices stand and at the Beer Tent.

Once more we will saunter around the craft stalls and charity stalls.

Once more we will gaze in awe at the tug-of war and at the sight of hundreds of local people throwing eggs at each other.

Once more we will meet again.

Chairman: Dave godwin67@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Duncan Godding,

Secretary: John Coleman

Treasurer: Ian Morrin

www.burghfieldresidents.org

Follow us on facebook:

Burghfield May Fayre @ more -BRA

The May Fayre

In Burghfield we are so fortunate to have some wonderful community events each year.

However, the oldest of all our local events is the widely renowned May Fayre. Depending on who you believe the May Fayre has been running for between 27 and 31 years.

From humble beginnings it has grown to be one of the largest community events in the south of England. This year, for the first time, it was cancelled.

There has been a lot of work done by numerous people in preparation for the May Fayre weekend. Preparations started in November, before we knew what was about to halt the country.

There are thanks to be made to numerous people as at the middle of March the field was practically full with bookings. A few thanks need to be sent to: Kailee Godding:

How she got a full field and Marquee



Burghfield Library

Following the Governments announcements recently, Burghfield Common Library remains closed, until further Government guidance is provided.

In the meantime, if you have access to Facebook please visit:

The Friends of Burghfield Common Library
or
West Berks Libraries

to access information on what online services are available or contact us by email.

We wish all our Burghfield customers and volunteers, continued good health #stay safe.

library@westberks.gov.uk.



Get ready to get SILLY!

It's almost time for this year's **Summer Reading Challenge**

For 2020 it's all about **funny books**, happiness and having a laugh!

Find out more about **Silly Squad**, the Summer Reading Challenge 2020.

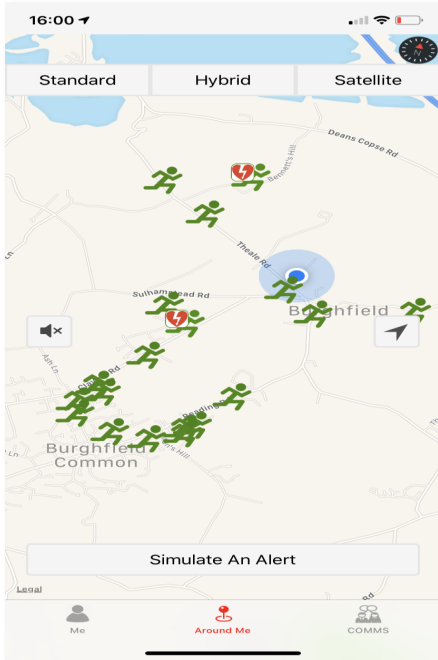
This year's challenge is digital due to the unusual circumstances we're in.

Parents, to find out how to take part, please access:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>



Burghfield NHS Responders



**NHS
VOLUNTEER
RESPONDERS**

DELIVERED BY
**ROYAL
VOLUNTARY
SERVICE**

More than 20 Burghfield Residents signed up to the Royal Voluntary Service NHS Responders Programme during the Virus lock-down.

Across the UK 700,000 citizens downloaded and applied to install the NHS GoodSam App which matched those people in need who were shielding with those willing to offer support services such as shopping, cleaning, collections and deliveries or just phone based companionship. Responders have logged hundreds of hours on call and can see which other responders are nearby and as people move around they will be matched with any local request for help via an alert on the App.

A higher level of response called CRPlus (CR+) was launched later during the lock-down period.

These volunteers who already possessed enhanced DBS clearance via their normal jobs could be assigned to roles and tasks with particularly vulnerable adults and children in need.

It is hoped this community service as a whole can be continued after the Coronavirus danger has passed within local communities.



Burghfield Community First Responders

Community First Responders play an important role in the Ambulance service 999 response. Being local we can get to emergencies quickly and potentially provide lifesaving support ahead of the Ambulance's arrival. However not every call requires such immediate action and we are often called upon to check on elderly members of the community who have fallen and are struggling where a friendly face and a cup of tea are just as welcome.

There are currently 5 active volunteers of the local Burghfield & Mortimer. We have been putting in extra hours over the last 2 months, responding to calls in and around Burghfield & Mortimer as well as supporting, where required into Reading and the surrounding areas.



The big change for us, has been like many, our response to Covid19. Whilst this has not impacted our ability to respond we do now have to take extra precautions and don PPE before we attend every call.

So, if you see us struggling in the wind trying to tie aprons or masks on its not necessarily because we suspect Covid, it's just a part of the role these days.

We have been overwhelmed by the level of support we have received through the last weeks, and many of you have asked how to contribute. The simplest way to do this or to get involved is through the South Central Ambulance Charity website www.scas.charity/

Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus

An eventful few months for the Handybus operation. We are very pleased to welcome on board three new volunteers who kindly stepped forward to help us run the transport operation for our elderly and less able members of the community.

We had high hopes, with the help of these new volunteers, to expand the services with even more shopping trips and additional social trips. Instead, because of the current difficult times, in mid-March, we had to suspend all trips in our Handybuses due to the social distancing regulations.

However, we are still being active in the community as a

number of our volunteers are now doing regular shopping for some of our, now housebound, customers.

We are all geared up and ready to re-commence our regular shopping trips as soon as it is safe to do so.

If you need community transport services please keep us in mind when normal life returns.

Contact details : Tel. 0118 983 6611

email: thehandybus@gmail.com



The Hollies Care Home VE Day

Staff and residents at The Hollies Care Home enjoyed a wonderful celebration on the 75th anniversary of VE Day, despite not being able to welcome external visitors into the home.

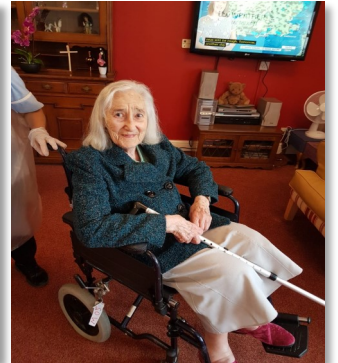
Residents had spent time making bunting, banners, and flags in their craft room in the days leading up to the event, the bunting featuring photos of residents.

Staff and residents gathered on the expansive front lawn at The Hollies Care Home to wave their union flags while care staff member Maureen Burman, performed a selection of wartime songs. Local residents, who were gathered on their own front lawns for the national VE Day celebrations, sang

along and clapped and cheered from a distance. Even the police joined in, driving past the Hollies and honking their horns in support. Gemma Denning, manager of The Hollies Care Home, said: "We would like to say a big thank you to all the members of the local community who have been sending their love and support with us during these unprecedented times.

"We're absolutely committed to the safety and wellbeing of our residents and it's important that they're able to continue to enjoy events like this."

The Hollies Care Home is rated outstanding in care by the CQC with an overall good rating.



Jason Dredge, JPDUK LTD

During the Covid crisis and lockdown we have tried to help as many people as possible at our workshops, we have turned our 3D Printers into face shield producing machines.

As it currently stands we have supplied 3000 face shields with the help of donations on our appeal

[gofundme.com/key-worker-face-masks](https://www.gofundme.com/key-worker-face-masks)

We have tried to keep it local but have been helping the [#printforvictory](#) group and supplied face shields as far as in Cumbria and Chertsey care homes. The places we have supplied locally are The Hollies, Royal Berkshire



Hospital, Prospect Hospital, Wokingham Community Hospital, Basingstoke Hospital, Basingstoke Care Homes, Graceland's Care Homes, Newbury, local pharmacies and local requests from shops and surgeries along with our local care workers. We are keeping this going until the need is no more and have put the masks for sale on our website for people and companies that would like personal protection www.jpduk.co.uk so we can keep the supply going for care workers.

It has been an honour for us here at JPDUK LTD to be able to do this for the local community with the help of donations and seeing the smile on the faces of the many we have supplied, has made it worth a lot more.

Burghfield Morsbags Group and friends.

Burghfield Morsbags is a group of people who love sewing, some of us sew a lot, some of us are beginners. We turn donated fabrics into bags which we give to the local community free to help reduce the mountains of plastic bags in use today.

Back at the beginning of April one of our group members was approached by Lauren Sparkle to see if we could help in making washbags for the staff at RBH to carry their scrubs home (putting them straight in the washing machine, bag and all, helping to prevent any virus being spread to their homes).

We came up with a design based on a pillowcase which was easy to use and quick to make. Using fabrics donated for making Morsbags we started making the bags and Lauren delivered them to RBH.



We quickly ran out of fabric and a plea on facebook for fabric and sewers to help make bags brought an amazing response.

Since then our regular sewers reinforced by lots of other helpers have made and distributed 2080 bags and we are still sewing.

Bags have gone to Lauren Sparkle, direct to RBH, Basingstoke hospital and local care and nursing homes.

We are still sewing "scrub bags" and will keep going until they are no longer needed so if there is anyone out there who would like to get involved you can get in touch via our Facebook page

[Burghfield Morsbags.](#)



The Volunteer Burghfield & Mortimer Mobility Service

When the lock-down started in March 2020, British Red Cross closed their regional centres. This meant Wheelchairs, Crutches and Commodes could no longer be loaned out to the local residents leaving hospital. The volunteer Burghfield & Mortimer Mobility Service (part of Burghfield Community Facebook Group) stepped in and helped set up 2 systems: One for direct equipment loans and one via West Berks Council Adult Social Care & NRS Supplies in Theale.

With an easy to understand diagram - the Mobility Volunteers set up a "one stop shop" across Burghfield, Mortimer and surrounding villages delivering and returning vital mobility and personal hygiene aids that would otherwise had meant individuals being bed blocked in major hospitals when they needed to be home and recovering. The service is free and voluntary and one of the many resident led initiatives that came about due to the crisis. Extra volunteers came forward to deliver & collect and one now provides a free repair service whilst many residents loaned or donated extra Wheelchairs when stocks became low.



Contact David Gregory
Burghfieldcommunity@gmail.com

Burghfield Community Prescription Service

Burghfield Community (www.facebook.com/burghfield) has worked closely with other Facebook initiatives such as the Burghfield Covid Support page, Village Eye & Mortimer Village Partnership to ensure all key Covid information was communicated to residents. Specifically they worked closely with Mortimer Surgery to ensure there was a smooth system for Burghfield residents who needed prescriptions collected from Mortimer.

Residents, Doctors, Responders & Social Care Managers met via Zoom to iron out any issues and agree a process which reduced the workload on Mortimer Pharmacies and reduced queue lengths outside. The process has been so successful that the villages are going to use it as a blueprint to work together in the future.

www.facebook.com/burghfield

Burghfield Resident Prescription Process (Non-Mobility) during Covid-19

I get my Prescriptions from
BURGHFIELD PHARMACY

Contact Alexandra O'Connell
 07500 875703
 or go to
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/511650863070800>
 Make a FB request

I get my Prescriptions from
MORTIMER PHARMACY OR JHOOTS

Email Help@Mortimervillage.Org.Uk
 Or Call Mortimer Virus Support on
 0118 391 5420
 Sian O'Neil will get and manage your request

Residents who can mobilise and anyone who wants to can still contact their pharmacy direct.
 This process is to streamline, batch & minimise journeys for helpers and patients

Burghfield

Community Self Isolate Support Group – Burghfield Mortimer & Burghfield Chemist Prescription Service Requests

If you are a **Volunteer** for delivery

- Call us on **07 59 59 59 479**
- Facebook Messenger: **David Gregory**

You need to tell us:

- Your Name
- Your Mobile Number
- Your Facebook Name or Email
- Your Pick Up Area (**B**urgh (**M**)ortimer (**S**)ulham

• Make sure you have:

- Some ID : - Passport , Driving Licence
- A Copy of your DBS or some official ID if you have it

If you are a **Patient** who needs their Medicine

- Call us on **07 59 59 59 479**
- Facebook Messenger: **David Gregory**

You need to tell us:

- Your Name
- Your Address
- Your DOB
- Your Age
- Are you Exempt from payment ? How? Card No:
- If not Exempt – How will you pay?
- If you say you have spoken to the Chemist. you **MUST** have a **NAMED CONTACT** and the **DATE & TIME**

Citizens Advice



The Covid-19 crisis has generated lots of new problems for many of us, and Citizens Advice Tadley has remained open to help anyone in need of support. Unsurprisingly, most enquiries have been about work and benefit issues, but the Tadley volunteers are still advising on relationship, housing, debt and consumer issues too. Keeping the

service running and to the highest standard has been the responsibility of recently appointed Chief Officer, Rachel Campbell.

Rachel said: "Following government guidelines, we had to close our offices for face to face advice, but staff and volunteers have come together to get our advisers set up to deliver phone, email and webchat services from home.

We are still open as usual for our local community."

If you would like to speak to an adviser, please call directly during this period on **0118 981 7567**,

or contact us through our website:

www.basingstokeandtadleycab.org.uk.



Allotment News

Well, strange times indeed! Allotments continue to be encouraged by the Government and people have been making the most of them for exercise and enjoyment. It has been terrific Spring weather and the ground has retained much moisture and the earth temperature is rising well at the time of writing this.

The Allotments have never looked so immaculate; if a weed appears, 23 people descend on it to destroy it!



Brilliant drone pic, courtesy of **Sylvester Marischka de Koster**.

Allotmenters have been working hard with far more than 2m social distancing, they have been sharing seeds and excess seedlings as it has been difficult to access supplies. People are very generous with advice and help.

The Facebook website 'Burghfield Allotment Holders' has been most useful in keeping us all in touch and up to date with each other and Parish/Government advice.

Rhubarb/Vanilla Cake

400g Rhubarb
50g Sugar
250g butter
250g caster
150g non-fat yogurt
250 self-rising flour
1/2 tsp baking powder
4 eggs
1 tbsp vanilla extract



Chop rhubarb into 2cm lengths, stew for 15 mins with a little water and 50g sugar, drain. Set oven to 160°C fan. Beat butter & sugar together, add rest of cake ingredients, mix together. Spread half of mixture into 9" cake tin, spread rhubarb, then rest of cake mix & smooth. Bake for 40-45 mins, cover with foil, cook for further 15-20 mins. Allow to cool before turning out.
Eat and enjoy!

Tribute to Tricia Hipwell



We sadly mark the passing of Tricia Hipwell on the 21st March 2020.

Tricia and her husband Les

moved to Burghfield Common in 1989. Over that time Tricia devoted a lot of effort in either organising or actively participating in many local initiatives. She was well known for taking responsibility, helping others and getting things done. She was not a 'busy body' - just did many things to make life better for others.

As a Parish Councillor Tricia was assigned to the Communication Committee but also took on several other active Parish roles. For example spearheading the Macmillan Coffee Morning in the Park, helping on the Parish Fun day, the BBQ's and the annual Burghfield Bike Ride.

Tricia also served for many years as Secretary of both the Burghfield Royal British Legion and the Burghfield Residents Association. For many years she was the arranger of the pitch and stalls at the May Fayre. She was also a



volunteer one day a week in the Burghfield Library, where as an aside she taught kids to knit and crochet if they wished to.

Tricia devoted 22 years as a Brownie Leader of 2nd Burghfield and afterwards remained as Treasurer. Tricia was also a



day volunteer at Thrive in Beech Hill who support people living with disabilities, ill health, or who are isolated, disadvantaged or vulnerable.

For many years, Tricia managed the Free & Fun Timers clubs, the pre and after School facilities for children at St. Mary's C.E. Primary School.

From the young to the not so young, Tricia spent over 3 years as an active member of TiM which provides a great service to those who are perhaps not so capable, elderly or lonely. She also remained a member of the local Womens Institute.

In her past professional life Tricia worked in Publishing, Large Building/Office premises relocation, Wedding Organiser, and as a PA to the MD of an Events, Functions and Catering Business. Many would not know that in her earlier career Tricia worked for Motor Cycle magazine and was a regular attendee at the Isle of Man TT Race and would be seen at many motor cycle events.

Her various activities in the village were not only personally fulfilling, but have given her insights across our local life, which she put to good use by active participation, whenever asked upon.

Tricia never sought reward or recognition. She said many times that actively putting something back into the local Community was reward itself. Tricia certainly lived up to that statement. We will miss her.



The Willink

Thank You to Staff, Students and the Local Community

At the Willink school we would like to say how proud we are of the way our students and staff have dealt with the changes to normal life imposed due to the Coronavirus outbreak. All have been quick to adapt to a new way of teaching and learning, with the use of video calls and online learning resources replacing class lessons. It has been great to see how students are motivating and challenging themselves as well as developing more creative skills through cooking, art photography and music.

Within school, teaching and pastoral staff are continuing to provide lessons for children of key workers as well as support our most vulnerable students. Staff are making regular phone calls home to check the emotional wellbeing of all our students and in partnership with Dolce Catering, food parcels and lunches have been delivered for those receiving free school meals. With the help of Veritas, our IT team we have also been able to provide

laptops to students who otherwise would not have been able to access online learning.

After Easter we launched our Willink 20 appeal raising money to help provide

further assistance to those experiencing hardship. Currently we



have raised over £3000 and are now in the process of sourcing and distributing nutritious food parcels, household items and other support required by those most in need. Thank you to all who have contributed, helping us support our local community during these unprecedented times. We will continue to help for as long as required and further donations can be made via the school website, www.willinkschool.org.uk

Along with continuing to teach our students, home schooling their own children and dealing with the stress of lockdown, our staff have also been playing their part to help provide PPE equipment to the NHS. Working with Park House



School, our Design and Technology teachers have produced over 130 full face shields and our Art and Design department have been sewing scrubs, headbands and scrub bags for the Royal Berkshire Hospital, local nursing homes and St Michael's Hospice. Producing 230 scrubs bags, 90 headbands and 25 sets of scrubs so far. For staff to produce more scrubs extra material is needed. Donations of old duvet covers and sheets (particularly dark colours) can be dropped off at the school office.

We are grateful to be part of such a caring community and will continue to do everything we can to help during these difficult times.

Mr P Fry, Head

Gourmet Queens

Gourmet Queens was established in October 2019 and with a number of events booked for 2020 we had envisioned our first year as street food vendors, very differently.

However, like so many others we changed our vision to adapt to a new 'normal'. Following guidelines Gourmet Queens has become a weekend food delivery service allowing us to continue to grow while doing what we love & bringing different cuisines to our local villages.



To commemorate the 75th anniversary, we created a complimentary VE Day Picnic Box to gift to local residents.

With the help of Alexandra



O'Connell and the Community Self Isolate Support Group on FB, people nominated neighbours and friends they thought

would appreciate the gesture, most of whom have been isolating for weeks.

Initially 20 boxes were agreed but with so many nominations flooding in we had to keep going.

On VE Day we delivered over 60 picnic boxes, decorated with the Union Jack and lyrics from the poignant WWII song by Vera Lynn, 'We'll meet again'.

Much to our gratification we delivered a smile and highlighted the strong values of empathy and care in our community, that we are immensely proud to be a part of.

Chantelle Beales



Sparkle Lauren

Hello, so where to start, I'm Lauren Sparkle. I have been doing a lot of donations for our amazing NHS, keyworkers, Duchess of Kent Sue Ryder Hospice, care homes, prison staff, Purley Park Trust, Ravenswood village, multiple wards at the hospital, Prospect Park and many more.

I've been collecting food donations, scrub wash bags, headbands, PPE equipment (visors, goggles, aprons, gloves & masks) for our amazing NHS, Duchess of Kent Hospice and care homes.



It all started on the 20th March when I decided I wanted to donate to ICU, this then progressed quite quickly to the current guys I'm donating to.

I've got a go fund me page for the Acute Medical Unit, community district nurses and ICU

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/donations-to-rbh-accute-medical-unit>

The guys in ICU hold a very close spot in my heart as back in October 2018 I suffered a severe head injury and was in a coma.

The support I was given and continue to get is beyond words. For the hospital I also sourced a Reading FC signed football t-shirt that was personalised with 'NHS our heroes'.

Thank you all once again for your continued support!!

Keep sparkling



Burghfield Art Fence

Those of you who have passed Denise Hoare's lovely thatched house adjacent to the Hatch, have been privileged to see the artwork she has displayed along her fence since lockdown began. This has caused so many positive comments that it has obviously delighted many people. In her own words, Denise explains why she was inspired to do this and what she hopes it has achieved.

"The fence happened after I saw people walking by heads down not sure what was happening in our world. Most looking sad and a little lost. I wondered if I could help a little but being isolated I was limited in what I could do.

My love of art inspired the fence. A fence to raise a smile, maybe encourage a chat between mums, dads and children, couples, anyone passing about the paintings.



A place where they could leave messages if they wanted, hence the message tree.

People have responded wonderfully and I think the fence is doing its job... lots of smiles and chatting at the fence. I have been asked by quite a few times if they are for sale. The answer to that is yes they will be, or auctioned, to raise funds for a project that will benefit our wonderful community in Burghfield once this is all over.

Thank you to all who have left wonderful messages it makes me happy that I've managed to raise a few spirits and smiles".

Deni, on behalf of all those who have garnered such delight from seeing your marvellous fence,

Thank you!





Caring in the community with 'social distancing'

Our volunteers are still being amazing and have found many ways to show they care for their friends (clients).

They speak by phone or even Facetime a few times a week.

They get their children to make cards and pictures.

They have made a rainbow poster for a friend's window, so she knows she is not forgotten.

They have made a birthday cake and delivered it with flowers.

They are doing weekly shops
A "hug in a box" with a special message was created and delivered. (see photo)



Our volunteers also helped our Coordinator, Bev, during self-isolation: "They even did shopping for me, brought me flowers, treats, meds and sent messages. I felt very cared for."

Caring in the community for seven years

TiM Friends was 7 years old in April. "Happy visiting and keep up the excellent work you do in the community."

I am so proud of each and every one of you.

My dream team! Happy birthday!"

Bev French, TiM Friends Coordinator : 07748 686615 : bevrench6@gmail.com

We value your support of Together in Mission

'Local Giving' at localgiving.org/charity/tim/

www.togetherinmission.org.uk

St Mary's Church, Burghfield

We have continued our services, but online via Zoom and recorded video messages, prayers and reflections, including some for children. You can find the videos online via Facebook or our webpage if you've missed any. We have a Sunday service at 10am to which all are welcome, and prayers and reflections posted on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

We have been busy as individuals too, engaging in many community projects and actions to help during the crisis. We are each part of so many organisations in our community, both established and newly formed, all seeking to help in any way they can; we continue to support the Foodbank in new ways; we are helping with groceries and medicines for those living near us; we are keeping in contact with the lonely and isolated; we are making rainbows and other displays to cheer passing walkers; we have sewed scrubs bags. Gill Sinclair, our worship leader, has recorded a song "Heroes" about this time, and it has been on Radio Berkshire, and shared around the world. You might like to listen to it here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8AXAIFetDkw&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR0LDfw5dmAdXelPnY9o8RiJef2l2Z-Tr5vhQtPZM2dSI_HSHkLFapsD9ck

During this time of the pandemic some people have asked 'Where is the church?' 'What is the church doing?'. Though we have had to close our church buildings, I'm pleased to say 'the church' is very much alive and active in this time of crisis. We may not be as visible as we used to be, especially during lockdown, but we still hold firm to our faith. In addition to being involved in so many ways in serving our brothers and sisters in our community, most importantly of all we are deeply involved in prayer.

Our world and country need prayer more than ever before. As Christians we are literally holding our world up to the Lord in prayer on a daily basis, as we pray for those on the frontline; all the key workers, those who are lonely, those who are ill and those who are grieving. We are helping our neighbours just as Jesus commanded his disciples. We are here now and we will still be here when the crisis is over.

Please get in touch if anyone would like a chat and let us know if you have any prayer requests which we can pray with you or for you. We live in such a great community here in Burghfield and I for one feel privileged to be part of it and to serve here.

Blessings to us all, Glynn

Burghfield War Memorial

Able Seaman W King Royal Navy Service No P/JX 153217

Died 24 May 1941 Aged 19

William Alfred was born on 26th

June 1921 to William Charles and Florence Elizabeth King. At the time of his birth the family lived in King Street, Mortimer with his paternal Grandparents, Levi and Edith Ann King, who had moved to Mortimer from Aston Upthorpe with their family in around 1910. His maternal Grandparents, Charles and Elizabeth Ballard, lived nearby in

Windmill Road, Mortimer.

Following the birth of his younger sister, Dorothy, the family moved to Pine View

Cottage, Burghfield Common and where his brother, Charles and sister, Freda, were later born. The family subsequently moved to 3 Palmers Cottages, Burghfield Common.

It is not known when William joined the Royal Navy. He is not recorded as living at home at the outbreak of war in 1939, so he may have joined the Royal Navy as a boy sailor before the war. He lost

his life whilst serving on HMS Hood when it sank off the coast of Greenland in the North Atlantic in the Battle of Denmark Strait. The ship was hit by the German battleship Bismarck and exploded, sinking within 3 minutes with the loss of 1415 of its company. It was the Royal Navy's largest warship to be lost, only 3 crew members survived. William is commemorated on the Portsmouth Naval Memorial and also on the HMS Hood memorial in the Church of St John, Boldre, Hants

Sarah Moss



Royal British Legion salutes Residents of Burghfield

Despite the restrictions caused by Coronavirus pandemic, the residents of Burghfield celebrated the 75th Anniversary of VE Day in amazing numbers.

There were so many groups enjoying drinks & food in many of our village roads and flags & bunting were flying everywhere.

It was so sad that the planned Tea Party and May Fayre could not take place but many residents rose to the occasion and joined their neighbours in small and socially distanced groups.

I can just remember a party on the Recreation Ground seventy

five years ago but bicycling around the village this May 8th was very special.

John Steeds

President



The Last of the Dents at Hillfields.

Gerard Edward Dent was the last of the Dent family to live at Hillfields, which since 1992 has been the HQ of the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Sadly he died on October 6th 2019 but, as he would say, he did have a good innings – he was 91.

He and his wife, Charlotte, lived the final 27 years of his life in Wales but they did return to Burghfield to visit their many friends. Gerard was born in London and lived and worked in Australia for a number of years. Latterly he worked in London and converted the stable block at Hillfields into a delightful family home.

He always enjoyed cricket and restored an ancient cricket ground in front of his house in Wales. He even played for the

President's XI v Sulhamstead Cricket Club!

He was a member of the MCC and, like his father, was also Master of the Worshipful Company of Grocers.

He was a great supporter of The Willink School and was delighted when the school was named after his grandfather, Henry George Willink (1851-1938) who bought Hillfields and 45 acres for £9,000 in 1892.

Gerard's father, Major Leonard Dent DSO, was a collector of fine art and on his 90th Birthday at Hillfields his guests included John Betjeman (who wrote a poem) and John Piper (who painted his house). RIP.

John Steeds, Highwoods, Burghfield Common

Burghfield WI

It's certainly been a strange two months to the start of my Presidency.

Although the WI has not been able to meet as normal we are managing to keep in touch with every one by email, telephone calls and newsletters. Being a member of the WI means there is always someone who will help you if needed, with shopping, small errands and most important of all a chat, especially for those who live on their own and those who are self-isolating.

With all the planned VE day celebrations cancelled due to Covid-19, including the Parish Council's afternoon on the Hatch, we decided to make sure our older members still had their afternoon tea. So we made a box complete with the Union Jack and filled it with homemade



scones, jam and cake and delivered it to the 16 of our members who are over 80. They were so thrilled and in return have written their memories of that day 75 years ago. So interesting to read. Rest assured, we observed social distancing and managed to have quick chats with the members from 2 metres away.

Burghfield WI is not just Jam and Jerusalem. It is true that some of us like to bake, cook, sew or make craft items. But we are more than that. We have a Book Club, Ladies that Lunch and Ladies that Dine, Cinema Group, Social Outings. We have excellent talks by visiting speakers. In the past year we visited Sipsmith Gin Distillery, went to the theatre and visited Woburn Abbey. We had a canal trip, enjoyed monthly lunches and dinners and generally enjoyed ourselves and each other's company.

We age from 28 to 93! Come and find out what we are about when we can all meet again.

Sally Reid President
Sally78reid@gmail.com



HMS Dauntless 1945 - 1981 Burghfield

Clay hill Road joins the villages of Burghfield and Burghfield Common. In the 1930's it wound its uphill path through the woods and among the rolling fields.

Occasionally villagers could be seen in the fields picking mushrooms and, at other times, riders galloping their horses through the lush grass. War brought with it the need for Ordnance factories and, in September 1939, one was built a mile and a half away from Burghfield Village.

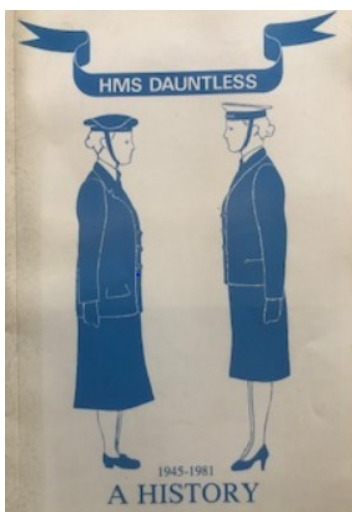
Although owned by the Ministry of Supply, the factory was run by the Imperial Tobacco Company on an agency basis, manufacturing 20mm ammunition.

Demands for this commodity rose as did the need for able bodied men and women to join the forces.

This caused an influx of munition workers into the area, mostly from Ireland. They needed to be housed so it was decided a hostel should be built, capable of accommodating 1500 women.



The 23-acre field to the north west of Clay Hill Road was requisitioned and a hostel built in



1942. Thus, began what was to become HMS Dauntless. As the end of the war approached so the demands upon the ordnance factory diminished and, in turn the imported munition worker started to go home, leaving the hostel empty by March 1945. Later that year it was requisitioned by the WRNS to become the Burghfield WRNS training Depot. This changed to His Majesty Training Establishment Dauntless and finally commissioned HMS Dauntless in 1953.

In the 1950 – 1960 was a decade of prosperity and a change for the country, during which time Harold Macmillan told us that “we’ve never had it so good”, the Beatles introduced new brand of Music and fashion swung sharply upwards to the mini. During this time HMS Dauntless developed its own feminine style which became renowned through the service.

(extracts from “A History of HMS Dauntless”)

These books, photo and history came from Mr Victor Walter, the gardener and handyman for many years. For most of the girls it was there first time away from home so they often looked on Vic as a father figure. (centre)



Burghfield Football team 1950's

Back row - 3rd from left. Charles Gordon Walters

Back Row - 4th from left. Vic Walters (Father and Son)



Burghfield 1952



Burghfield Parish Council cannot accept responsibility for the views, opinions, or accuracy of the information expressed by contributors.

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