

## **Minstead eNewsletter 29<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**If you have a neighbour who does not use the internet please print a copy and give it to them, even if you don't know them.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This is a different sort of eNewsletter but things are not normal! What a month it's been! Who would have imagined on Leap Day that 4 weeks later we would all be in almost total lockdown, not even allowed to walk our dogs in the Forest? Our thoughts are with those in the Village who are essential workers, especially those in the NHS but also in the many other jobs critical to keeping the country functioning through this daunting period. At the time of writing we are being told it will get worse before it gets better – let's all hope this happens very quickly!

Sadly, all events in the next three months that we know about have been cancelled or postponed. Furzey Gardens is closed, the Church is locked, the Trusty is shut and the Social Club is not able to live up to its name for now. Strange times. On the bright side, there is a lot of virtual activity going on over the internet which is fine for a great many but still a lot of people are probably missing out on any social interaction. If you know of someone like this and feel inclined to give them a friendly ring on their phone then please give it a go – a comforting chat can be a great tonic.

It is not for the Parish Council to tell you about the latest rules and advice. These are being promulgated from central and local government at an unprecedented rate and hopefully everyone will do their best to follow them. However, for the enthusiast, see **Further Advice at the end.**

As a Council we are here to try and provide help to people in our Parish if they need it, particularly those who are vulnerable and alone, be this in the form of information or assistance insofar as we are able to give it.

Below is a list of things that may be of help or interest but do not hesitate to contact any of our Councillors if you need to know more and someone will do their best to help you. It is not an exhaustive list but we will try to keep you up to date with further eNewsletters and especially on Facebook.

Click <https://www.facebook.com/MinsteadPC> to keep in touch!

### **HELP IN THE COMMUNITY**

**Helen Bennett** helenbennettpc@yahoo.com tel 07804 046122

**Esme Briggs** esm.briggs@ymail.com tel 07791642032

Please contact either of the above or any Parish Councillor if you are able to help in the Community or know of anyone local who needs help. See <https://minstead.org.uk/news/enewsletter/> for further advice.

### **FOOD AND ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES**

We have been informed of a great many shops and businesses who offer home

deliveries and the main supermarkets also offer, if you are lucky enough to get a slot, home delivery and click and collect as well as priority hours for NHS Staff and vulnerable people. We are trying to build up a page on the Village website and will do our best to keep it up to date.

(See <https://minstead.org.uk/coronavirus-food-and-essentials/>)

#### HOT MEALS

Berties - the fish and chip shop in Lyndhurst is now delivering for free to Minstead. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturday Order online by following the link

<http://www.berties-of-lyndhurst.co.uk/>

Minstead Trust has offered to provide a choice of hot meals, snacks etc. No specific details have been arranged so if you are interested please contact Dawn Wood directly at Dawn.Wood@Minsteadtrust.org.uk tel 023 8081 7147

There may be others.....

#### POLICE

Our Police are working hard and of course are often in the firing line when things go wrong. They have the thankless task of enforcing the Stay at Home Policy to help prevent the spread of infection and are asking people not to drive to the New Forest. They have been monitoring our streets and open spaces, visiting car parks and reminding everyone to stay local and use open spaces near to your home where possible. If you have travelled to the Forest to take exercise or to walk your dog then the Government's restrictions do not permit this and they will be asking you to go home. Hopefully a modicum of common-sense will emerge and we suggest you keep an eye on <https://www.facebook.com/NewForestHeartCops/> to get the latest.

#### ALL SAINTS CHURCH

Although the church is locked there is lots to follow on social media.

Visit <https://www.newforestparishes.com/> to find out more.

#### DUSTBINS

Refuse and recycling collections are still being carried out but NFDC is expecting severe service disruption over the next few days or weeks. Keep an eye on [newforest.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://newforest.gov.uk/coronavirus) for the latest. We and NFDC suggest you wear protective gloves when handling your dustbins and that you wash your hands afterwards.

#### MOTs

In case you are worried, there is 6 months' grace for MOT renewals though of course owners are still required to maintain their vehicles in a safe, roadworthy and legal

condition.

### VILLAGE SHOP

Unfortunately, our new Community Shop was not ready to start trading before the lockdown. However, work is still proceeding and this weekend its interior has been painted by Tim Nicholson and he is also the Treasurer for the shop and it was his birthday. Thank you, Tim!!



Once the shop is up and running the Committee hopes it will help support and rebuild our Community when the worst of this wretched virus is over.

### SCAMS

There have been reports of a huge increase (400%?) in the number of scam phone calls and spam emails with dodgy links etc since the outbreak of the coronavirus. Do be very careful when answering the phone to strangers, when you are on line and do not click on any links that you are not absolutely sure about. There are some very unpleasant people around trying to take advantage of the present crisis.

For the latest see post on <https://www.facebook.com/NewForestHeartCops/>

### PHARMACY

Rowlands Pharmacy in Lyndhurst seems to be under a lot of strain at the moment and of course the Surgery is also under pressure. We are trying to see if people can arrange for their prescriptions to be sent to the Forest Pharmacy at Bartley as this seems to work a lot better for those in Minstead.

## FURTHER ADVICE

There is a great deal of further advice that can be found on the [Government Website](#), the [District Council's website](#) and the [NPA's website](#). In particular those with pets and livestock may like to have a look at the [Government's Advice for People with Animals](#).

## PARISH COUNCIL

You can contact us at [minsteadpc@gmail.com](mailto:minsteadpc@gmail.com) or any of the following who will do their best to help you if you have any queries. If they can't, the chances are they will know someone who can!

Cllr. Bill Andrews	023 8081 3349	<a href="mailto:minsteadchairman@gmail.com">minsteadchairman@gmail.com</a>
Cllr. Helen Bennett	023 8081 2358	<a href="mailto:helenbennettpc@yahoo.com">helenbennettpc@yahoo.com</a>
Cllr. Steve Cattell	023 8081 3574	<a href="mailto:stevecattellpc@outlook.com">stevecattellpc@outlook.com</a>
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