

Newick Community Response

Support and Help during the Covid-19 Pandemic (Issue 8)

St Mary's Church, Newick Parish Council, the village pastoral care team and many wonderful volunteers have been working closely together to support our community since the start of the outbreak of Covid-19. We have Newick Community Response (NCR) email newickcommunityresponse@gmail.com for Parishioners who need help and people able to offer help. The Facebook group 'Newick Community Response Covid 19 – Mutual Aid' is offering real time help for those who need it. The website www.newickcovid19.org.uk and the additional Covid 19 tab to the Newick.net website are central sources of information.

Since our last update, the government have announced their plans on how restrictions will be eased and what our new normal looks like. For some the first green shoots of change bring promise of returning to work, for others it may bring worry as to what the changes mean to them. NCR will continue to operate until the very end of the pandemic, supporting the most vulnerable in our community. The Newick Community Support continues to work well, and it appears the government food boxes, and online shopping delivery slots are now becoming more available, allowing more of our residents the freedom to support themselves. Many will also have been supported by their family, friends and neighbours, who after the government advice this weekend, might be now called back into work. If you know someone who might not be able to continue being supported by friends or family, or who's in need of extra help, please drop a call to the contacts below or an email to newickcommunityresponse@gmail.com. These communication sheets will now be paused until a time when the pandemic situation changes or there is important or useful information to share.

In coming weeks will see several local services and facilities return. One such facility is the Maresfield Refuse Tip which reopens at 10am on 18th May. ESCC anticipate that they will be extremely busy when they reopen so we advise considering whether you need to go there in the first few days of opening. In the meantime, the ban on burning garden waste and rubbish continues until further notice.

The internet has been a marvellous thing during this period. It has enabled residents to work from home, children to be home-schooled and for us to still 'see' our friends and relatives on video calls. On the downside fraudsters are exploiting the spread of coronavirus in order to carry out fraud and cybercrime. Police have reported an increase in coronavirus related scams. Common scams are emails relating to Inland Revenue refunds and TV licencing payment errors. Please be wary of any email asking for payment information, clues to look for when checking if an email is fraudulent is check email address that the email is coming from, don't click on links in emails from unknown sources, or if it seems strange that the email would come from that source. Never open attachments from unknown sources, check for poor design, grammar, and spelling, and whether the email addresses you by your name. Sussex Police has full advice at <https://www.sussex.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/online-fraud/>

Over the past couple of months there have been many moments where Newick has really shown what a wonderful and unique community it is. The VE day celebrations are no exception. Thank you to NEASSA for organising their brilliant online quiz. Many local residents celebrated in socially distant street parties in a celebratory and responsible manner. Sadly the same cannot be said for the group of teenagers who had their own early VE day party just before midnight on Thursday night on the playing fields. We understand that our younger residents are used to the freedom to socialise with their friends and this time will be difficult for them, but this type of behaviour is completely unacceptable. We ask parents not to allow their children out in the evenings for the safety of them and others. The incident has been reported to the police and the area is covered by CCTV.

A reminder of the key contacts - if you are aware of any of your neighbours who are vulnerable and are without a family, please contact Patsy Bailey on 01825 722590 or Revd Paul on 01825 723186. Newick Distress Trust for donations or financial assistance please contact Geoff Clinton on 01825 722512 or Revd Paul on 01825 723186. Full details of the government measures can be found at www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Thank you for working together, thank you for looking after each other and thank you for everything you have done. Newick truly is a special place to live. Please do stay in touch and let us know if there is anything useful to share with the community.

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