

*Hope springs eternal...*

Quarterly newsletter produced by your Parish Council and jointly funded  
by the Jessie Hughes Village Hall

# Parish Council News

## Local community response to the epidemic

At the start of this horrible pandemic, our Parish Council agreed to a 'Buddy Project' being set up and run in our Parish of Eaton & Rushton, headed by Councillor Mike Wilson, aided by wife Mary. A document ('Would you like a 'buddy' in these difficult times?') was hand-delivered to every household (220) in the Parish, on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Within days, we had a fantastic response from residents offering to be 'Angels' and asking for a Buddy to support.

Over the next couple of weeks, we tried to contact all 'vulnerable people' (those over 70 or with an underlying health condition), offering an Angel. We now have a register of over 50 Buddy Couplings and another 40 people on standby to help when needed.

A new Update goes out each week on 'Local Issues', including a retail directory of which suppliers are delivering or open for collection, covering foodstuffs, drinks and garden produce. The Update includes other local issues, plus the odd Quiz or suggestions of how to spend this strange time with exercise etc.

A paper copy of each Newsbrief (currently Issue 10) is posted on the Village Noticeboard by the Green for those not on the Internet. Anyone needing more information about any of the above is welcome to contact Mike on 01829 760619 or email [mike.marywilson@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.marywilson@btinternet.com). Thank you to all in the community for looking out for each other, whether in the scheme above or just because you are good neighbours. **[And thank you to Mike and Mary for all their hard work – Ed]**

We've just received a letter from the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, David Briggs MBE, KStJ, thanking everyone in our team for looking after the vulnerable in our community and keeping spirits up with regular News Updates etc. So well done to all.

Our residents have whole-heartedly supported the ‘Clap for the NHS and Key Workers’ (yes, we have many nurses, firemen, care workers, shop assistants, teachers, utility personnel, delivery drivers etc. in our Parish) at 8pm on each Thursday. As a bonus, the Dunne family in Elm Tree Court have put on a ‘concert’ in their drive. Gemma and Ronan (who play in the Halle and BBC Philharmonic orchestras in Manchester), are supported by sons Freddie and Woody for a beautiful ten minutes or so of music. Without contravening the social distancing rule, this has resulted in many standing by and enjoying this fabulous talent. A very warm “Thank you” to the Dunes.



## **Parish Council Meetings**

The Parish Council has been doing business on email but is about to switch to Zoom meetings for Planning Applications etc. The May Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm and again this will be via Zoom. Normally the public are allowed to attend either to raise a subject in ‘Public Speaking Time’ (first 15 minutes of the meeting) or just to listen. To be practical, we will admit up to five members of the public (the normal maximum that attend) and those with a particular point to

raise will be given priority. If there are more than five people applying, we will draw names out of a hat.

## **VE Day - 75th Anniversary (Friday 8th May)**

On Friday May 8th, towns and villages would have been meeting up to celebrate this milestone. Tarporley had plans which Eaton would have supported. However, Dave Smithson has suggested that, bearing in mind social distancing, people might want a celebratory ‘drink across the fence’ with neighbours and friends. The flag will be hoisted at the Jessie by our ‘flag man’, John Freeman, so feel free to have another round of applause and a drink at 8pm, Friday.

## **Village Green**

Thanks to those volunteers who on 13<sup>th</sup> March helped plant many daffodil bulbs which were donated by CWaC but somehow got overlooked. They were planted around the trees, the telephone box and along the ‘Smithy’ Wall. Okay, not too many have showed themselves, as it was a little late - but look out next spring for a dazzling display!



## Road safety and vehicle speeds

The lockdown has certainly affected the volume of traffic flowing around the country and no less through our village. Our traffic data expert, Paul Healey, has looked at recordings from our Vehicle Activated Sign on Eaton Lane showing traffic travelling south. See Pauls comments below, which show a decrease from 948 vehicles (w/c Mar 13<sup>th</sup>) to as low as 367 (w/c Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>). If you're really interested in speed figures, we have the PDF analysis which can be attached to an email - so email Mike for this to be sent.

*Hi Mike,*

*I've attached a spreadsheet showing the traffic count and proportion exceeding 40mph for the last 7 weeks (Saturday - Friday). I thought it might help to include a more normal time in March. Lockdown was announced on March 23rd. The table shows the weekly averages:*

<b>Week ending</b>	<b>Vehicle count</b>	<b>% speeding</b>
Mar-13	948	32.5
Mar-20	817	22.5
Mar-27	555	32.1
Apr-03	367	32.2
Apr-10	371	26.2
Apr-17	379	24.2
Apr-24	426	18.4

*Interestingly, the proportion of speeders hasn't changed much. This last week, there have been traffic lights for a couple of days - hence the lower average. The number of vehicles does show an upturn in the last week.*

*Paul*

## Transport Survey

Thank you to all who sent in the survey. The co-ordinator, Francis Tunney (Chair of Utkinton & Cotebrook Parish Council), has produced a report which we'll make available when received

electronically. The conclusion shows that there's an interest for additional bus routes, and Open Meetings are planned for the end of the lockdown.

### **Eaton Play Zone**

Following instructions from the Government, we had to close off our Play Zone at the beginning of the lockdown. It will be re-opened as soon as allowed.

### **Eaton Youth Club**

Unfortunately Youth Club meetings had to be closed down at the beginning of the lockdown.

### **Village Fun Day – 6<sup>th</sup> September**

Full of optimism, we haven't cancelled this event yet, as little money outlay is involved and decisions can be taken near to the event. It may be a great way of celebrating the end of lockdown but we will just have to wait and see.

### **Eaton Village Golf Day**

Following the decision by the R&A to cancel the 149th Open due to be held at Royal St. Georges in Kent this July, it will come as no surprise that the other UK Major Golf Competition, 'The Eaton and Rushton Golf Day', has decided to follow the R&A's lead and cancel this year's event.

This means that the 2019 winners - Paul Clisby, Lloyd Kelly, Brian Oldham and Nick Parker - get to retain the coveted trophy for another year. If circumstances allow us to play later in the year, we'll let you know.

Meanwhile, we wish you and your families a healthy year ahead.

David Lilley & Nick Parker

## Picnic Area

The Parish Council Picnic Area (at the Millpool) is still open, along with other parks in the country. Notices have been put up to that effect, asking people to social distance. Mowing of a perimeter path and around the seating area is now on-going and all are welcome to visit. Please don't touch tables etc without gloves and we have asked people to take their litter home during this period as the emptying volunteers shouldn't be exposed to this. The Bees, Bugs & Butterflies Project run for the school by the Parish Council has been put on hold.

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*Rushton Parish Chair: Neil Thompson*

*General Parish Council Matters - Contact the Parish Clerk,*

*Lindsey Worrall, at [rushtonclerk@aol.com](mailto:rushtonclerk@aol.com). Tel: 01829 760653.*

*Communications: Mike Wilson - [mike.marywilson@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.marywilson@btinternet.com)*

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## The Jessie Hughes Village Hall

### *Film Nights*

*Since the February Newsletter, 60 people came to see 'Downton Abbey' and just over 50 saw the film 'Judy' (story of Judy Garland) in March. The lower number in March was due to virus fears and was the last event held at the Jessie before close down. Thanks to those who came, all sitting in chairs at social distance spacing.*

### *Rock, Pop and Hotpot night*

*This was another smash hit night in aid of Tarporley Cottage Hospital. Organised by Mike and Mary and the regular helpers from our Parish (plus neighbours), Tarporley Community Centre was chosen as the venue so that 140 tickets could be sold. The attendees were entertained by the same 'Cover All Bases' band that played for us at Cotebrook Village hall. This amazing band of*

*ten professional players (all from the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, Manchester) were headed up by our very own villager Ronan Dunne as lead vocalist and provided excellent rock and pop music with dancing in abundance. The evening included a fantastic meal cooked by Mary, Amanda and team and also a guest appearance by the 'Eatonians Quartet', who enjoyed being backed up by such professionals. All agreed that it was a great evening which raised £1,560 for the hospital.*

## **Bits and pieces about the Jessie**

*Well, as you may have guessed, the Jessie is shut and has been, more or less, since the start of the coronavirus problem. One or two classes tried to soldier on but eventually yielded to the inevitable. The hall may be shut but some of us are still going in from time to time to check for leaks, flush the loos and, most importantly, check that there have been no break-ins.*

*Early in the shut-down, we took the opportunity to get the kitchen lights updated to LED modules. They look good but we won't be able to test their effectiveness until the dark nights arrive – again.*

*Quiz and Film Nights were shut down in their prime in March, but films and quizmasters are being lined up ready for a re-start in October. That assumes that our regular attendees will be let out into meetings of that size by then. We also know that some of the other classes are itching to get going again.*

### **The AGM**

*I told you last time that the AGM was due to be held on 11th April. This, of course, never happened. Our AGM is timed to meet our obligations to our constitution and, as we're a registered charity, to the Charity Commission. We normally elect a new committee at the AGM but, in the circumstances, the existing committee members have offered to remain in post. Members can, of course, resign and the committee can co-opt new members. With no AGM, we've been unable to formally accept last year's financial results. For the first time in the new hall, we ran at a deficit last year. This was mainly the result of paying off a large electricity bill, which we think was wrong. However, things have moved on – see below.*

## ***Electricity at the JHVH***

*Regular readers will know that we've had trouble with our electricity bills from Scottish Power ever since the village got its new substation and the hall got a new 3-phase meter. We eventually referred the matter to the relevant Ombudsman, which caused Scottish Power to offer a substantial refund. This effectively wipes out last year's deficit and means that Scottish Power now owes us money. This enabled us to move electricity supplier on 14th April. The money that Scottish Power owes us would have more than offset the deficit in last year's accounts – but will, of course, fall into a different accounting year.*

Ron Chisnall (Village Hall Secretary)

## **Local activities**

### **Eaton Bridge Club**



The bridge club is, of course, not meeting until the current situation has been resolved. To satisfy the wish of most of our members to play bridge, I am devising and sending them a quiz each Thursday with the answers four days later. So far these have received approval. We are, nevertheless, all looking forward to the return to normality.

*Martin Evans*

### **Ballet**



There's not a lot to report from Pointe Works, as sadly we've been closed since 15th of March and our summer exam session had to be cancelled. Obviously it's difficult for those students who worked so hard to prepare for them but I'll rebook for the autumn when I can. I've been recording classes on Vimeo and sending them to the students, who are dancing at home along with them. I've had some heart-warming pictures and videos of the girls practising in their kitchens etc. I plan to re-open as soon as safe to do so and

am happy to teach through the summer hols if required to make up for the lessons missed.

I am planning to teach some 'live' lessons just as soon as I can find a suitable platform that ticks all the privacy/GDPR and child protection guidelines. Zoom isn't safe enough but I'm looking into Microsoft Teams, which might work. I am really missing everyone of the Pointe Works ballet family and looking forward to getting back to teaching again soon.

*Nicolle Higgins*

## Yoga



Yoga with Brenda: classes that are usually held in the Jessie Hughes on Tuesday mornings can now be followed live on Instagram @yogabmcc during the lockdown.

*Brenda McCooley*

## Up The Garden Path



We began the year with our AGM, full of hope and expectation of a wonderful year, filled with interesting speakers and varied garden visits! A lovely evening was had with cheese and biscuits and chatting about gardens we would like to visit; and the entries into the annual show (especially the cake and biscuit section that should be included). Everyone went home with a sense that spring would be here to welcome a lovely gardening year.

In February, we were treated to a wonderful demonstration by our member John Kealey, who showed us how to grow potatoes in a bucket. John has won our 'Spud in a Bucket' Competition for at least three years in a row. We all went home with our seed potatoes and eagerly planted them as instructed, caring and worrying about them since, and dreaming that we can get near the dizzy heights of 12lb of spuds in a bucket before the July weigh-in and the prize evening when the winner is given the 'mounted Potato Peeler'!

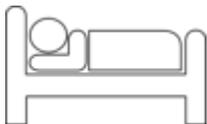
However, we haven't met since February, and won't be meeting or going to the arranged garden visits until it's safe to do so, but the members keep in regular contact and ask questions and advise on email, or simply ask if anyone has spare seeds, plants or plant pots. To cheer us all up, we're running a sunflower growing competition. There will be two categories: the tallest and the largest face. Everyone is welcome to join the competition, and prizes will be given to the winners.

If anyone would like to join in with the gardening group chat, or has any questions, please e-mail [lindsey.worrall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindsey.worrall@hotmail.co.uk) and we can send your questions to the group.

To become a member of the gardening group costs £20 a year. There are no other fees except for garden visit costs. Alternatively, you can attend meetings as a guest for £3 an evening.

*Lindsey Worrall*

## **Tarporley War Memorial Hospital**



Trying to survive, with vital fundraising income paralysed due to Covid-19, is an awful situation for all charities at present - but none are harder hit than those dedicated to healthcare, who face a double whammy. Their very existence is now seriously threatened. Due to the virus, we need to find incremental monies for PPE, medical supplies, specialist cleaning and linen, IT hardware to aid remote working capability and patient iPads.

There is a Covid-19 Appeal from the hospital - if you can, please make a donation. Details of how to do so are on the hospital website - [www.tarporleyhospital.co.uk](http://www.tarporleyhospital.co.uk).

Rather than make a donation to the general appeal, perhaps you would prefer to donate something tangible? Rachel, our brilliant Chief Medical Officer, has a wish list (see part below) comprising basic items which are much needed but are simply unaffordable. Rachel and the team are working so incredibly hard, risking their own health to care for others: vulnerable people from our community. Most of you reading this have almost certainly either

used the hospital, or know somebody who has, so there has never been a better time to say thank you!

1	ECG machine	£1500 + VAT
4	Pulse oximeters	£60 + VAT
8	75 litre yellow lid bin	Around £100 + VAT
5	75 litre black lid bin	Around £100 + VAT
4	Surgical trolleys	From £205 + VAT
Several	Pillows (water proof coverings)	£12 + VAT
Several	Duvets (waterproof)	£18 + VAT
12	Drip stands	About £200 + VAT

If you would like to help, drop me a line or give me a call or contact the hospital via the website. Thank you so much.

*Brian Byrne (borisbyrne@btinternet.com or 01829-732255)  
Tarpoley Hospital Fundraising Committee Member*

## St Thomas' Church



Life at St Thomas has suffered the same fate as all of humanity! No longer do we hear the 9am 'call to worship' bell on a Sunday morning. Instead, we have a morning service delivered by email. If you'd like to be included on that, please let me know! My email is [rosemarylilley26@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarylilley26@gmail.com). Send your email address and I will pass it on to Georgina, who I know would be delighted to include you on her list. We, like everyone else, miss the meeting of church family on a Sunday morning. However, the phone lines are very busy keeping in touch and helping where help is needed. Tarpoley Parish Church's website has a list of links to just some of the many options for services that are currently available. Each Sunday service is there for you to peruse.

We hope that you are able to 'enjoy' being isolated...certainly my garden looks better than it ever has... our home is gleaming! Please let us know if in any way the Church can help you. With every good wish and stay safe from all at St Thomas.

*Rosemary Lilley (Warden)*

## Eaton Reading Group



Our book choice for February was 'One Day' by David Nicholls. It certainly split the group, who saw it as either a profound statement about life or a lightweight chic lit. However, after discussion we decided that it was a good read. The story begins in 1988 and spans 20 years. It involves two post grads: a handsome middle-class boy from the Cotswolds and a spikey working class girl from Yorkshire. They go their different ways but touch base every year on St Swithin's Day. The story is memorable, funny, poignant and in some ways very profound. It encompasses friendship, love, success and failure. But read it for yourself and make your own judgement.

The book choice for March was a darker novel by Anita Brookner, a Booker Prize winner. 'Undue Influence' tells the story of Claire and is beautifully written. It's a strong story but one of urban loneliness and chance meetings in a vain attempt to relieve it. It's considered one of Brookner's finest psychologically active works: perhaps one to keep for better times.

In April, we chose an author rather than a book: the works of PG Wodehouse. So although we had a set book, some chose to read others by the same author. Wodehouse was renowned as an author, humourist, lyricist and playwright. His humour has stood the test of time and is just the thing to dip into when you need to escape. For this meeting we had to go 'online'. This had a mixed response, but we will get better.

In May, we should have read 'Middlemarch' by George Elliot, but she was one of the first victims of the virus. When it became apparent that we would have oodles of time for reading, our concentration levels fell, our stress levels rose and the sun lured us out into the garden. Therefore we had a change of heart and opted for a good old-fashioned murder mystery, a genre that in the ten years we've been running, we have never read! So this month, we're enjoying Agatha Christie's 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' - considered one of her finest.

June's book choice is another prize winner: 'The year of the Runaways' by Sunjeev Sahota.

If you'd like to join us, please get in touch on 732904. If not, happy reading: it's a great way to escape without leaving the house!

*Tina Peel 732904*

## Eaton Rambling Club



We were very lucky to fit in two great walks before lockdown! February saw ten of us follow leader Beatriz Roel to Primrose Wood in Kelsall, via Little Switzerland, returning to the Boot Inn for refreshments. The weather was so good that we were able to sit outside in the sun.

Dave Lilley led our five-mile March walk around Lymm, again in good walking weather and a double-figure turnout. On the social side, our annual trip to the Bickerton Poacher gave 25 members and friends the opportunity to enjoy some substantial pies... and then to try to play skittles.



Despite some tampering with the scoring, which showed the men in front, the ladies were declared the evening winners...again. It looks most unlikely that our June trip to Grasmere will take place and we will probably have to postpone this to 2021.

Well who knows what the next few months will bring! Not a lot of group walks, but I hope you are all managing to take your daily exercise. Good wishes to all.

*Gill Ellison (Secretary) - 01829 782693*

## **Tarporley and District U3A**



Tarporley and District U3A is alive and well – online! We’re adapting to our current circumstances and, although we can’t hold our monthly meetings or go for group walks or play table tennis, we can do lots of other things instead.

We are producing a regular ‘Isolation Special’ newsletter every couple of weeks and you can sign up to the National Third Age Trust Newsletter, which is full of ideas. It tells us this month, amongst other things, that the one and only Mr Motivator is providing members with exclusive online exercises to keep us fit!

The Theatre Studies group is watching online theatre and having meetings on Zoom to discuss them. The Play Reading group is looking at meetings through Zoom; the Art Appreciation group is producing a regular newsletter and running a Facebook page for members; the Science group is doing presentations online; and there will be more. We’re starting a Creative Writing group online, a Phone-a-Friend group and hope to start an online Book group.

So, if you’re retired or semi-retired and would like to join us online to take part in lots of activities, it will cost you just £5 (reduced from £15 for a full year) for a membership lasting until the end of August. You’ll have access to our online groups, although you’ll need to contact each group convenor to see if they are accepting members. You should receive at least one edition of the National Third Age Trust magazine, you’ll make new friends and if you continue your membership, we’ll eventually resume our monthly meetings.

For membership details, go to: [www.u3asites.org.uk/tarporley](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/tarporley) and click on ‘Contact/Join’. Or email: [tarporleyu3a@outlook.com](mailto:tarporleyu3a@outlook.com).

## Eaton WI



Eaton WI's last meeting was in February, when members heard from Phillip Powel on 'What is Art and who decides what is Good Art?' He explained about having a gallery and all the pitfalls that go with it and also how he picked artists to exhibit in the gallery.

In February, a number of our members attended the Centenary Concert held at Chester Cathedral and each member attending received a piece of celebration cake. This was supposed to be the start of a very busy year for the Federation, with lots of events. Sadly, due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the lockdown which is presently in progress, our meetings and events have had to be cancelled.

If you require any further information please contact our Secretary, Celia Gregory on 01270 528647 or myself on 01829 733639.

*Dianne Ouseley (President)*

## Eaton Primary School PTA

The Eaton Primary School PTA hopes that this newsletter finds everyone safe! As with everything else in our lives at this time, the PTA will NOT be resuming PTA activities, such as raffles or communal gatherings, until it is safe and appropriate to do so.

We would like to thank the school, our parents, and our local community for your amazing support this school year. Your attendance and generosity has meant a great deal to us! We look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Take care and stay safe.

*Katie Burrows (Chair)*

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***Deadline for contributing to the next newsletter: Sat 25<sup>th</sup> July***