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# Binfield Heath Village News

Issue No. 93

March 2020

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## Coronavirus in the village

A group of volunteers has formed on Facebook to support the over 70s and those confined to their homes during the coronavirus outbreak. [Binfield Heath Covid-19 Mutual Aid](#) is for the village and the surrounding areas, to provide volunteer help for those who are self-isolating or quarantined, or in a vulnerable category, due to Covid-19. You might already have had a form or note put through your door, giving you the name and contact details of your volunteer/s. If not please sign up on FB if you would like to help or if you need assistance. For those not on Facebook please call 118 9472810 or 07989 314523 for any concerns, advice or help.

Volunteers will help, where possible, by collecting shopping, prescriptions or just to be a friendly voice at the end of the phone during the period of enforced isolation. The full link is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/236764107369482/?ref=share>.

## Binfield Heath village shop during coronavirus

Gavin and Sharon, along with the team of volunteers are happy to deliver to anyone self-isolating, provided the shop can source the products needed. Please call them on 0118 9478842 for any orders or queries.

## Fancy a walk, Mon, 30 March

A weekly village walk is planned from Monday, 30 March at 10.30 onwards (weather permitting). All are welcome but each will have to take personal responsibility for not getting too close to others. Allow 1.5 hours. Meet outside the village shop.

## Village tree saved!

You may have heard that our much-loved tree in the centre of the village has been the subject of debate with the county's tree officers. It was condemned as being diseased and not thriving and for a while we feared it might have to be felled and replaced with a sapling. But the old chestnut did not lose a twig during the recent storms and is now again in full bud. Following further discussions, the county tree team has agreed to leave it in place for a few years more and rather than cut it down, prune it vigorously instead. Good news for once!

## Alan Greeley

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Alan Greeley on 16 March. Alan was a much loved figure in the village, known for his photography and love of music amongst other things. He conducted the brass band at the Carols around the Tree for many years, and organised the exhibition of vintage photos of the village at the last two Flower Shows. He will be greatly missed. Our thoughts are with Rosemary and her family.

## Village litter pick

A big thank you to everyone who turned out and helped at the annual litter pick – as usual, familiar faces. The day's treasures included a wc cistern, four tyres (all in different locations), most of a car (scattered), a large container of something or other and a plastic bin of paint, plus the usual endless bottles and cans flung from passing cars and vans. The medal goes to the Howland family who tackled the appalling verges of Emmer Green Road and were the ones to point out the cistern... We hugely appreciated an email we received from Caversham cyclists who passed us during the litter pick: "A big shout out to those residents that were litter picking this morning. Thank you for keeping Binfield Heath so nice. Thank you for sparing the time." And thank you from *The Parish Council*

## Binfield Heath Flower Show – Mary Berry to open

Mary Berry will open the Show this summer by cutting the ribbon at the entrance to the Produce Tent at 12.00 noon on Saturday, 29 August. The cook, author and television presenter, who lives in Henley, will judge the cake classes and meet the participants and organisers. Show Chairman, Evelyn McQuater says, "We are absolutely thrilled that Mary will be involved in our day and we are planning a number of show-stopper cake classes for both adults and children. We would love as many entrants as possible to take part in our very own Great British Binfield Heath Bake Off!" Perhaps now is a good time to start practising! This year will concentrate on the flower, vegetable, baking and craft elements of the Produce Tent.

Another very exciting addition will be the offer of antique valuations given by auctioneer Simon Jones and other specialist colleagues. Any interesting objects as well as family heirlooms can be brought along and valued. A wonderful opportunity to learn more about your family history.

Woodley Concert Band will be performing, local primary schools will be exhibiting their art work, the dog show will be as busy as ever with a dog obstacle course adding extra interest, vintage cars will be awaiting car enthusiasts, local artisans will be showing their wares and lots of family entertainment as always, featuring ferrets, owls and an array of rare breed sheep and a display of specialist hen varieties. A few extra surprises are planned!

Congratulations to Evelyn and the team - anyone wishing to join the team in this celebration of village life should contact her on 07912619970. Please join in and take part!

## **Kindling for sale in aid of Thames Valley Air Ambulance**

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The Heads still have some kindling. Please help yourselves from the box by the gate post & leave payment in the honesty box.

Available from The Heads: 13, Heathfield Avenue  
£3.00 per net or £5.00 for 2 nets.

## **Parish council meetings suspended**

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No meetings of Binfield Heath Parish Council will take place during the period of the coronavirus outbreak. For the duration, day to day business, urgent and planning issues will be handled by a formally delegated committee consisting of Paul Rollason, Lis Ransom, Hugh Lacey and Sue Summerland. They will work mainly by email and phone. The committee was convened at an Extraordinary Meeting of the council on March 18.

Work towards getting started on a neighbourhood plan for the parish is on hold until we are able to hold a public meeting to discuss it. All queries continue to be managed by our clerk, Mandy Sermon, on [msermon@btinternet.com](mailto:msermon@btinternet.com). We will keep in touch with the parish via the website [www.binfieldheath.org.uk](http://www.binfieldheath.org.uk) and through this newsletter.

*Binfield Heath Parish Council*

## **Shiplake Memorial Hall**

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Due to the coronavirus, the trustees of the Hall have decided to close the hall for the months of April and May. They hope to re-open in June but will have to keep the situation under review and follow any advice given.

## **Shiplake Village Nursery -**

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The Easter Fun afternoon on Fri, 27 March is now regrettably cancelled, or at least postponed for the foreseeable future.

## **Recycling centre – Oakley Wood**

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This centre will be undergoing a deep clean on Tuesday 31 March and Wednesday 1 April, so please avoid taking your household waste there on those days.

## **Ninebarrow Concert**

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This event on 8 May has been postponed to 11 December. Please check the hall Facebook page and website [dunsdenvillagehall.co.uk](http://dunsdenvillagehall.co.uk) for further updates on this and other planned events.

## **Dunsden Village Hall**

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The trustees of Dunsden Village Hall have reluctantly decided that in the light of the current health crisis and in the best interests of all users and staff they must close the hall with effect from Thursday 19 March until 20 April. A decision on re-opening will be made the week before.

The hall's Chair, David Woodward, is a web and graphic designer and is currently collaborating with a Reading university student on a new website for the hall.

The hall is continuing its appeal for new volunteers to help with its running. We have a team of regular volunteers whose help at our fund-raising events is much appreciated. We are also looking for new trustees to engage in the rewarding process of running the hall, pending the conversion of the hall to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

## **Stained glass window for Dunsden Church**

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Dunsden Owen Association is pursuing a long-term plan to install a commemorative window in All Saints Church to mark the connection of Wilfred Owen with the area. It is hoped the design will emerge from a collaboration with the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass, which holds an annual window design competition. The church expects to launch a campaign for donations to fund the making of the window.

## **Comedy night at Dunsden Village Hall**

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After last year's fabulous event, we are looking forward to again hosting a comedy night at the hall on 3 October, with Alfie Moore from the hit BBC Radio 4 series "It's a Fair Cop" the headline act.

## **Newsletter**

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Get your newsletter by email as soon as it is published. Our goal is to get as many as possible on our village mailing list, so that we only have to deliver to newcomers and those without internet access. Please email your email address to [marina.hart@virgin.net](mailto:marina.hart@virgin.net) to be added to the list.

You will also be able to access the newsletter from the VILLAGE WEBSITE. [www.binfieldheath.org.uk](http://www.binfieldheath.org.uk).

Please also let me know if you wish to unsubscribe. A hard copy will not be delivered to you though.

## **Contributions**

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If you would like to add any news or make mention of anything of interest to the village for the next newsletter, please email [marina.hart@virgin.net](mailto:marina.hart@virgin.net).

## **Dates for your Diary**

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3 Oct	Comedy night at Dunsden Village Hall
11 Dec	Ninebarrow concert