

New Arley

Arley News

Old Arley

**Latest Local News
& Information**

Summer 2020



Welcome to the Summer 2020 edition of the Arley News!

If you have items you'd like to submit we can be contacted at arleynews2016@hotmail.com or paper copies can be dropped into the letterbox at Arley Community Centre marked Arley News.

***John Male* Editor – arleynews2016@hotmail.com**

***Patti Baker* Treasurer – pattibaker@hotmail.com**

***John Birch* Advertising – birchjohn@yahoo.co.uk 07443461292**

***Marion Gales* Assistant Editor**

Articles for inclusion in the Summer Edition of Arley News

must be received no later than 15th August.



Dear Arley News, I wonder what local residents feel about the number of fires that are being lit in the area, I am not talking about the smoke from BBQ's but the nuisance from commercial premises.

The government is encouraging us to stay indoors and open the windows but with the amount of smoke being produced and the smell this is impossible. Surely it is against some law? Yours Mrs. D.E.

Dear Writer, I understand how the situation can be a nuisance but there is very little the police can do unless it is blowing over a highway and creating a hazard to drivers. What you can do if it happens frequently is to contact the Borough Council who can issue an "Abatement Notice" to the offenders to stop the lighting of fires. Hope this helps.

FROM THE EDITOR

Since our last edition went to print it seems that the whole world has been changed with the corona virus that started some 5000 miles away. The introduction of social isolation and social distancing has given a whole new meaning to 'community contact'.

It has been good to see that the majority of residents in the villages have been sensible and took the advice that has been given. I'm not sure that everyone has been in total agreement with the advice, but as a community we are slowly getting there.

It is most heartening to see that a major issue like this brings people together. A big thanks must go to all the people and organizations that are pulling together to make sure the most vulnerable amongst us are being looked after; and a big thanks to all the neighbours who are looking out for each other by sharing a shopping slot or calling to ensure that a housebound neighbour is coping. Although I am personally one of those people who are classed as "highly vulnerable", and therefore under lockdown, I can see that the number of people who are walking or running has increased. It is great for residents to discover new areas to walk in and it is good news if it helps reduce obesity.

There is a down side to walking around the area, however:

- if you are going to have a picnic while you are out and about, please remember to take your rubbish home

- feeding farm animals is not a good idea. In some cases it has become a serious risk to animals' health, and may even cause death

- please leave your walking and picnicking areas in the same condition as you found them.

Another major issue I foresee is people's mental health; those who are living alone or in total lockdown with another person will find it hard to get back to some kind of normality. Getting out and meeting people again will be difficult, but I hope that they will have the support and the help they need from local and national organizations.

The message from all the Arley News team is to stay safe and, if you need assistance, we hope there are articles in this edition that can help you.

The Arley news team would like to grow, so there are more villagers who know how the booklet is produced. We can show you what to do, and train you in one of the jobs. **Why not get in touch with a view to joining the editorial team?**

Useful phone numbers

POLICE	Emergency	999 or 112
Council House	Non-Emergency	101
South Street Atherstone. CV9 1DE	Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111
ELECTRICITY	Powerloss Helpline	0800 678 3105
GAS	Emergency	0800 111 999
WATER	Emergency	0800 783 4444
Spring Hill Medical Centre.	Reception: - Open 08.00 to 17.30	01676 540395
Phil Collins Way.	Surgery: - Open 08.30 to 18.00	Phones switch to
Arley. CV7 8FD.	All Monday to Friday	emergency at 17.30
Arley Primary School Gun Hill. Arley	CV7 8HB.	01676 540347
Arley Sport Centre Oak Avenue, Arley.	CV7 8FN.	01827 719321
North Warwickshire Borough Council.	Switchboard	1827 715341
South Street Atherstone. CV9 1DE.	Out of hours emergency	1827 718086

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS IN THIS PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY

Warwickshire County Council	Hotline for vulnerable and isolated residents	0800 408 1447
Warwickshire County Council	Customer Service	01926 0410410
Samaritans	Mental Health	116 123
Coventry & Warwickshire Mind	Mental Health	0300 1233393
RISE	Childrens mental health	0300 2002021
Citizens Advice	Help	0302 3301163
Age Uk	Help	01926 458100
Trading Standards	Report a trading issue	0808 2231133

ARLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chair	Councillor Martin Langley	07989438686
Vice Chairs	Councillor Gail Williams	01676541580
	Councillor Eric Fellows	01676542697
	Councillor Trevor Tennant	01676541641
	Councillor Paul Erhahiemann	07446961269
	Councillor Nigel Turley	01676541543
	Councillor John Male	07791208695
	Co-opted Member Carolyn McKay	07973336178

Clerk to the Parish Council

Mr Gerry Brough 01676 542563

Email: - gerry@arleyparishcouncil.co.uk

Arley Parish Council meets on the first Thursday of every month at 7:15pm at Rowlands Court and the minutes of the meetings are posted in the notice boards in New & Old Arley.

The first item on the agenda is always the Open Forum where Parishioners are invited to speak on any subject for a limited time.

If you have an issue you wish to raise you are welcome to attend any of the APC meetings.

North Warwickshire Borough Council Members for Arley & Whitacre area.

Councillor Jodie Gosling 01676 540397

Councillor Ann McLauchlan 07974 320357

Councillor Kerry John Parker

KerryParker@NorthWarks.gov.uk

Warwickshire County Councillors

Councillor Colin Hayfield 01675 481887

Update from the Parish Council

A message to all parishioners from your Parish Council

Please stay safe and well!

We are going through unique times and must put every one's health and safety before everything else. Owing to the lockdown we have been unable to hold any Parish Council meetings and so most of our projects are on hold.

On government instructions we were asked to close our recreation grounds. Reluctantly we complied with this order when we saw large groups gathering on the skateboard facility in Gun Hill Recreation Ground. This left us no choice but to secure them but hopefully we may be able to open them again in the near future.

We made a donation to Arley and St Michael's Community Centre to help stock food parcels to be delivered to our vulnerable parishioners. We hope everyone eligible got their parcel and we wish to thank everyone involved.

VE MEMORIAL DAY.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel all our plans to celebrate this day because of Covid 19 but we are waiting for the all clear to celebrate V J Day Memorial in August this year.

BIG LOCAL

I wish to thank the Big Local for arranging a wartime singer to sing outside Rowland Court, Meadow Court and in Croft Mead Ansley on V E Memorial Day. At 5pm I attended Rowland Court and listened to the singer entertain our residents with her rendition of classic wartime songs. I saw residents stand on their doorsteps and sing along with her. Well done Big Local!

We are having major problems with off road motorcycles racing over Hilltop Football fields, this really must stop. They have no respect, and seem to take delight in damaging the pitches as much as possible. If you see this happen, or know who is responsible, please call the police.

WEBSITE

Owing to technical difficulties we lost our website and email capabilities for several weeks in February/ March, but it is now back and working properly. Please contact us if you have anything you feel the Parish Council can help you with. Martin Langley Chairman

Marcus Jones MP

Working Hard for Arley



I am delighted to support the Arley News.

One of the great joys of being your local MP is spending time with the many groups and organisations that thrive and help enrich the lives of residents. Please contact me if you need advice, or to discuss any concerns – I can't promise to solve every problem but I will always do my best to help.

**Marcus Jones MP, 13-17 Hollybush House,
BondGate, Nuneaton CV11 4AR Tel: 024 7634 8482**

Email: marcus.jones.mp@parliament.uk

Website: marcusjones.org.uk





**Patron Her Majesty
The Queen**

**ARLEY ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION BRANCH
FORMED 1973**



These are unprecedented times we are in at the moment and our planned Service to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Victory in Europe had to be cancelled. The Branch felt that we still had to acknowledge all who had contributed to bring the conclusion of WW2, so a wreath was laid at the War Memorial and crosses placed at all of the War Graves in Arley and Ansley churchyards.

We are waiting for guidance from Head Office for VJ Day commemorations, but again we will endeavour to mark the event as best we can.

New members are always welcome so if you're interested come and join us, you do not have to have been in the Armed Forces. We meet on the 1st Sunday in Feb, Apr, June and Oct at 11am at the Wagon Load of Lime.

For further information, please contact:

Fred or Gill Guy Tel: 01676 542105 Email: gill87217@gmail.com

If you are a Veteran and need support our Contact Centre is open from 8am-8pm 7 days a week. Tel: 0808 802 8080 or go online www.britishlegion.org.uk or The Veterans Gateway is open 24/7.

Tel: 0808 802 1212 or online www.Veteransgateway.org.uk.

LETTER FROM MARCUS JONES MP TO THE RESIDENTS OF ARLEY

The current Coronavirus Covid19 pandemic has caused massive disruption to normal life to virtually every household and some have seen loved ones succumb to the horrible disease. My sincere condolences to everybody who has suffered a bereavement as a result of Covid19.

It is indisputable that the death toll would have been much higher had the vast majority of local residents not followed the Government's guidance to stay at home, practiced social distancing when going out for essential purposes, and regular hand washing.

The effect has been to stop the NHS being overwhelmed and I'd like to thank you for following the rules and helping to save lives.

As the number of people in hospital with Covid19 declines, the restrictions on daily life will slowly be relaxed. It is critically important that we continue to follow the updated guidance as it is issued – the aim is to avoid a second surge in the number of people with the virus and, to succeed, we need everybody to play their part.

I have been hugely impressed by the number of local residents who have come together to support their neighbours and communities in a variety of ways and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped make a difference – every small act of kindness has a huge, positive, impact.

Let none of us forget that thousands of people have worked hard to ensure food has left farms and warehouses to reach the supermarkets; that there have been no significant interruptions to gas, electricity or water supplies; that our post gets delivered; that the children of key-workers have been able to attend school; that the bins get emptied regularly and many other core services have continued as normal. All of these people deserve our thanks, alongside our doctors, nurses and the care-workers who have coped with an unprecedented situation with determination and dedication.

None of us have ever faced a situation like this before and it is inevitable that there will be some difficult decisions to be made as the situation unfolds, but, by using common sense and not trying to push the limits of what is permitted, we will come out on the other side sooner than would otherwise be the case.

As ever, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any specific queries or feel I might be able to help you.

With all best wishes, Marcus Jones MP



ARLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Much has changed in the world since the last edition of the Arley News. A global pandemic that has had an impact upon all of our lives has meant school has been quite different. I hope you have managed to stay as safe and well as possible during this difficult time, and on behalf of the school community, I would like to send you all our very best wishes.

School has remained open throughout lockdown for a small number of pupils and ,as staff, we have been grateful that we could play a part in supporting key workers. Teaching, like many other professions, is a vocation and we will always do our very best to serve the children and the communities in which we live and work.

We have the most wonderful school building at Arley but a building is nothing without the children. We miss them dearly and look forward to the day when we can re-open fully and once again work with our young people and families, in the knowledge that each day brings with it 'new beginnings and endless possibilities'.

The staff at school have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support shown to us during this lockdown period – not least when we arrived to school last week to be greeted by balloons, banners, flowers and cakes. At 11 am many of the children and families from school came, clapped, and cheered. We felt honoured and humbled – there were many tears shed that day.

Thank you for thinking of us and for taking us into your hearts.

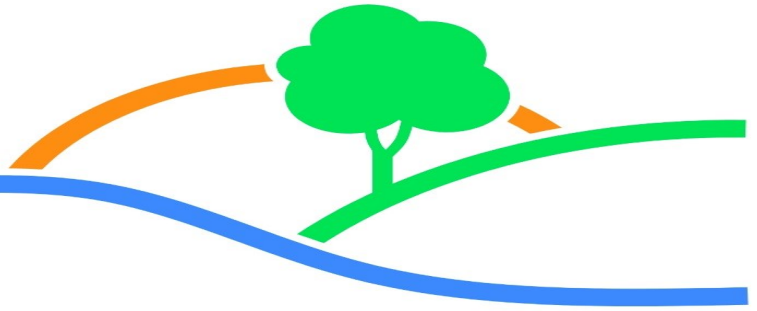
For the next edition of the Arley News, it would be wonderful to be writing about the return to school – in the meantime stay safe and well.

With very best wishes Linda Kelly – Head Teacher



Spring Hill Medical Centre

Tel: - 01676540395



ACCURX-Since April 2020 we have been trialing a new software package compatible with our clinical system which allows us to contact patients via mobile phone texts to send advice, notify results, remind patients of appointments and more. I am pleased to announce that, following a successful trial, we will continue using Accurx to communicate with patients.

This week we have seen a huge influx of verbal (face to face) and over the phone abuse from patients regarding opening of the premises for appointments/services/ getting results and complaints about the length of time it takes for telephones to be answered.

We have to comply with the government requirements on social distancing, therefore we have a staff rota and a reduction in staff, because we have not got enough space to ensure social distancing is be adhered to, and we will not risk any of our employees' health in the light of the ongoing covid19 pandemic.

Furthermore, until we get assurance from NHS England we **WILL NOT** be resuming all services, and opening Spring Hill Medical Centre from 8.30am until 6.30pm.

The notice that we posted on 13th March 2020 STILL APPLIES Patients are still to ring the practice first ! This is the same for EVERY local GP practice.

Take your Rubbish Home!



The Arley News has had a number of people contact us with reference to the rubbish people are leaving around the local area, which is not only unsightly but is encouraging vermin. We know that during this time of uncertainty people are getting more time to enjoy the outdoors, but if you are going to take a picnic out with, you surely it is not unreasonable to expect you to take the empty containers home, or dispose of them in a waste bin. The photograph shows the rubbish left in Dafferns Wood

Lifelines is here to support our community through the Covid-19 pandemic

Thanks to the swift action of Ward Councillor Jodie Gosling, and with help from the Wards Community Fund and the Arley and Ansley Big Local, Lifeline Centres have been developed to support our communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Working in partnership with Arley Community Centre and a number of locally based volunteers, the Arley Lifelines group were able to quickly respond to the needs of residents who were self-isolating, shielding or vulnerable who needed support obtaining essential food and medication.



Since lockdown began at the end of March, over 300 emergency hampers have been delivered free of charge round New and Old Arley, to help with any immediate need for those who were shielding and self-isolating.

Using local knowledge and referrals from North Warwickshire Borough Council, Lifelines has been able to support the most vulnerable in the community and, thanks to Arley Parish Council, they also offered a little bit of cheer as they delivered Scones and Clotted Cream with their weekly delivery to help celebrate VE day.

As people were advised to stay at home, the Lifeline (Arley Whitacre) team introduced a 'Community Shop' where shopping lists have been dropped round to homes on a Thursday, they are then collected the following Monday, with the ordered food delivered to their door on the following Thursday. At the moment there are over 30 community shoppers supporting 60 homes and ready to help more, so please get in touch if you would like to use, or help, with this service. A big THANK YOU needs to go to Rowley's, the local COOP, Gun Hill Post Office, Gayton's and T and M Fresh Produce who supported the cause and enabled the delivery of fresh quality products to those who needed it the most.

Jodie Gosling said: "We have had an overwhelming amount of people offering to help where they can. We've received brilliant feedback from those receiving the service. As lockdown eases, we will not disappear but, as people steadily return back to work, our volunteer base may drop, which means we need new volunteers to register with us." If you are able to spare a few hours a week, please go to www.lifelinesorg.co.uk or email admin@lifelinesorg.co.uk for a registration form. Jodie concluded by saying: "On behalf of Lifelines we would like to thank the community and local businesses for their support and massive achievement in what has been a very uncertain time for many of us."

Arley and Ansley Big Local –Update



A lot of Big Locals across the country have had to pause during the pandemic. However, Arley and Ansley Big Local (AABL) have been

monitoring the impact of Covid-19 on our community and have been actively supporting our residents.

Working closely with Borough Councillor Jodie Gosling, Ansley Parish Council and Arley and St Michael's Community Centre, AABL provided a grant of over £6,000 to set up and run Lifeline Centres in all of our villages. (*Please see the separate article from Lifelines*).

So what else have AABL been up to?

VE Day

The 8th May saw the country celebrate VE day despite planned activities to commemorate the day being cancelled or postponed until VJ day later in the year. AABL supported the national VE Day 'Stay at Home Street Party' by providing decorations, entertainment and activities for residents to enjoy. Fifty activity packs were also given out which included bunting, toy aeroplanes, doll making and an array of VE Day based games, crafts and recipe ideas.

It was great to see all houses decked out in Red, White and Blue, people enjoying the sunshine from their front gardens and appreciating the company of neighbours while still adhering to lockdown and social distancing rules.

Cathy Morris, a vintage singer, took residents in Croft Mead, Stewart Court, Rowland Court and Meadow Croft down memory lane with an upbeat 45-minute set of wartime favourites.

Youth Club Our Youth Workers (although predominantly working from home), have been helping Lifelines deliver essential food parcels to vulnerable residents, but have also held virtual Youth Club meetings to keep our children entertained while at home.

The Leys Youth Project has taken to Zoom to deliver a weekly meeting for all young people in Arley and Ansley Village aged 8+. Over the last few months, they have met on Zoom every Wednesday at 5.30 pm for quizzes, games, cooking, scavenger hunts, general catchups and more. They have also held a “Craft Club” and are coming to the end of a 6-week project. Check out their Facebook page (www.facebook.com/leysyouthproject) for regular updates and information on up and coming projects and activities to do at home. If you are interested in joining the Leys Youth Club, please contact Sarah on 07939 510 344 or email her at sarah.deeming@wcava.org.uk

Supporting education while in lockdown

While out supporting our community, our coordinator identified a number of families who do not have access to computer equipment to enable their children to join online classes or educational programmes while at home. Working with Arley Primary School, AABL has made a number of laptops available to loan.

Please contact the school if your children do not have access to a computer for their education while in lockdown and they will try to help.



A VE Day memento

Events for the Diary

Litter Picking. While our residents have been in lockdown, we have not been able to hold our bi-annual community litter picks. However, as we are not able to spend more time outdoors to exercise, it would be great if you can help keep our villages litter free by picking up any you see as you go on your daily walks.



Covid-19 Lockdown Poetry Competition – Closing date, 31st July 2020.

(See poster on page 25 for more details)

Scarecrow Festival. Something we can still do and enjoy while socially distancing.

This year's theme is Nursery Rhymes, and the event will be held around the weekend of 19th September. Look at our website (www.arleyansleybiglocal.co.uk) for more details nearer the date.

Events with dates to be confirmed

VJ Day. Celebrations for VE Day have been postponed until VJ Day on 15th August. Hopefully, most of the lockdown measures will have been lifted to enable us to join together as a community to commemorate 75 years of victory over Japan during WWII.

Out Out Street Party for end of lockdown. It has been proposed to hold street parties to celebrate the end of lockdown. The date being discussed is 26th August.

Covid-19 – A Moment in Time Capsule. The current pandemic has shown that community spirit is alive and kicking in the AABL area, and what better way to capture all the great things that have been happening, thinking about our history and hopes for the future than to create and bury a time capsule in each village. More details will be announced on our website but please see the poster on page 24 for information on how you can be involved.



VE DAY IN ARLEY



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Community Spirit is Alive and Kicking Let's say a proper Thank You!



There are a number of volunteers who have been seen out and about supporting the community, but there are also a massive number of people working hard behind the scenes driving forward our local COVID response, without whom life would've been significantly harder, more dangerous and much more stressful for many residents and key workers.

Our community is awesome, and we need to recognise and celebrate just how well people have come together to help. Arley and Ansley Big Local, The Arley News, Ansley Community News and the local council are looking for nominations from local people of anyone who has helped, not only to say thank you, but to show the enormous scale of the effort people have put in.

Please nominate your community superhero!

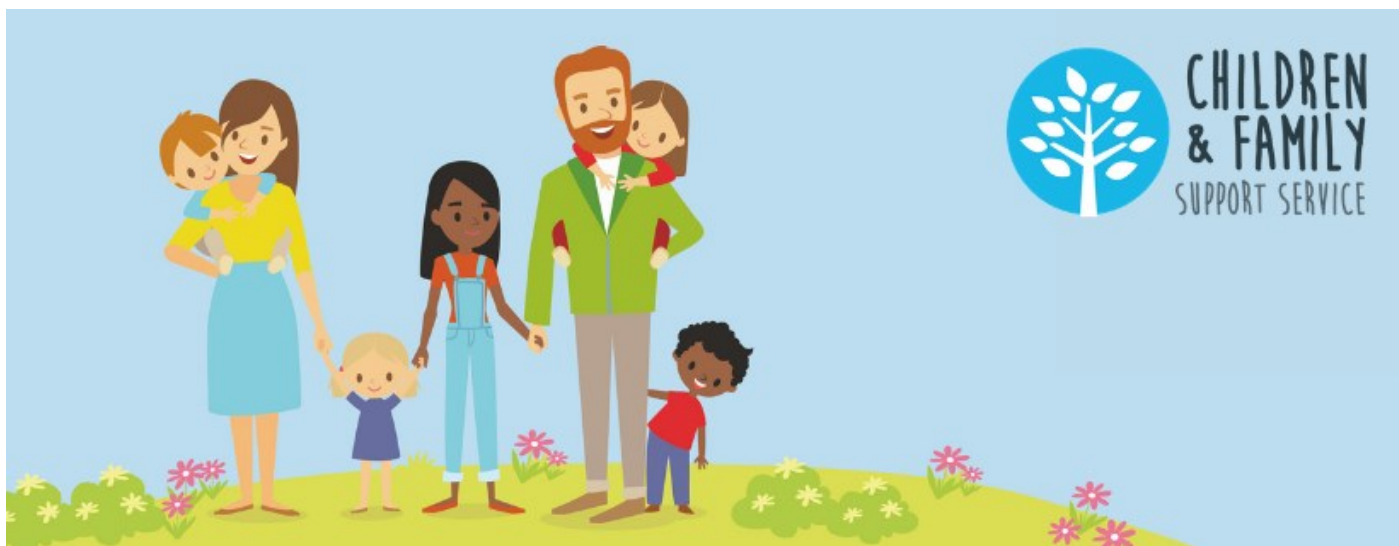
RULES:-

- ♦ **THE SMALLEST THINGS ARE OFTEN THE MOST IMPORTANT!**
- ♦ **YOU SHOULD TELL PEOPLE YOU ARE NOMINATING THEM AND WHY!**

(Message us if you're not sure your nominee will want public recognition, please tell us who they are, and we will get in touch with them to check.)

Please send your nominations to: -

admin@lifelinesorg.co.uk



The Family Information Service provides information, advice and signposting to support on a range of topics. Information is available on things to do at : -

- Home.
- Education Resources.
- Staying Physically and Mentally Well.
- Family Relationships
- Finance.
- Housing.
- Parenting Support.
- Help through Pregnancy.
- Special Education & Disabilities needs.

Telephone **01926 742274**

Email: - **fis@warwickshire.gov.uk**

Additional support is also available to families who may need extra help to engage with other service available to them during the current coronavirus pandemic.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

During these this time of uncertainty, if any of your children are normally eligible for free school meals (FSM) then support is still available to them. Please contact the school that they attend to establish what service they are providing: Food on Site, Meal Deliveries or Food Vouchers. If you need further help or information visit:

[warwickshire.gov.uk/ coronavirusschoolmeals](http://warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirusschoolmeals)

During School holidays support is still available to eligible families through Warwickshire Local Welfare Scheme. **01926 359182 or 0800 408 1448**

Email : **warwickshirelocalwelfarescheme@warwickshire.gov.uk**

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WESLEY HALL METHODIST CHURCH ARLEY

Although Arley Methodist Chapel is closed for services, members are available for both spiritual and practical help.

Please phone either Rev Jane Braund 01676 533737 or Carole Jackson 01676 542405

Our plans for the 100 Years Celebration have been put on hold for now, but we hope to have a big get together later in the year.

Don't forget that we have a prayer request box on the wall in Chapel car park. This is checked and emptied regularly, so please leave any worries that you need praying for and we will add you to our prayer list.

Your Friendly Local Gardening Service!



We specialise in maintaining our customer's gardens by carrying out a variety of tasks including grass cutting, lawn care, edging, weeding, weed control, pruning and plant care amongst many other things. We can also transform your garden into the garden you want, and then maintain it at that level.

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Village and Vehicles!

It's larger than a hamlet,
Though not as big as a town,
When the village was being
built,
Were there any cars around?

Seems people can be selfish,
And no one seems to care,
Cars for some means two or
three,
It really isn't fair.

All those cars outside each
house
And parking spaces scarce,
This seems to have no
bearing,
No thought, respect or caring

An engine starting up is heard,
And curtains start to twitch,
It makes me smile to watch
them,
Running for parking spots to
switch,

I often think of filming
And playing back rather fast
With Benny Hill's theme tune,
Playing to the last,

This problem needs resolving,
Both parking and fast speeds,
And rather than building
houses,
Address existing village
needs!

AJ

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

As it was our birthday celebration we celebrated our last meeting with a lovely fish'n'chip supper.

Unfortunately since then we have been on lockdown, so subsequent meetings had to be cancelled.

We were especially looking forward to our chocolate making meeting, and the ladies were very disappointed!

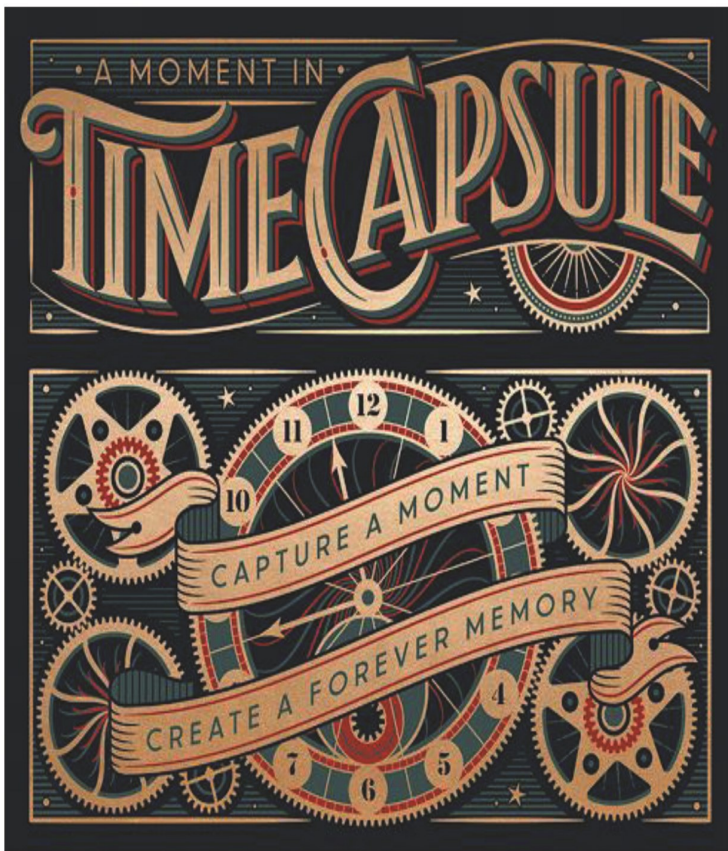
At the moment we are unsure when our next meeting will be but, if all goes well and the restrictions are lifted, we will be meeting in September. We are looking forward to being able to meet up again at the Barn, in the grounds of St Wilfred's Church in Old Arley.

For more information, please email arleywi@gmail.com contact Linda on 0779 157 6511 or just come along to one of our meetings where a warm welcome awaits you.

Arley and Ansley Big Local

To mark the beginning of our next community plan we would like to bury a time capsule in each of our villages.

Time Capsules are a great way of taking a moment to think about all the things in your life that are important, to think about our history as a community and to make predictions and hopes for the future.



To contribute to the capsule, you can:

1. Complete a household questionnaire to tell us about you, your favourite things, memories and hopes for the future.
2. Send in photos and stories of the local community.
3. Volunteer some time to help collate information and put the capsule together. This could be as much or little time as you want.
4. Contact us on:
Tel: 0799 395 20344
Email: nwbiglocal@wcava.org.uk

Alongside burying the capsule, we will host a community event to celebrate. Details of the event will be available soon so keep a look out on our website:

www.arleyansleybiglocal.co.uk





Time to let your creative juices flow!

Arley and Ansley Big Local are holding a

POETRY COMPETITION

Closing date July 31st 2020

There are three categories:

Over 18's, 13 to 17 Year Olds and 12's and under

The winning poem from each category will be included in the Arley and Ansley Time Capsules and be published on the Arley and Ansley Big Local website.

Runner up poem's will also be published on the Arley and Ansley Big Local website.

Your poem could be about village life, life in 2020, an experience or a hope for the future, it could be what you predict the future will be, maybe you want to write about how the villages or the world have changed in your lifetime. We'd love to hear about your experiences or hopes, we're looking for a poem that tells a story about life now to future generations.

To enter you must live in one of the Big Local areas of Old Arley, New Arley or Ansley Village and your poem must:

- Be no longer than 150 words
- Be written by you and submitted before the deadline to nwbiglocal@wcava.org.uk with your DOB, name and best contact details clearly marked.

Good Luck!

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The Container Gardener

Life is certainly throwing a few curve balls at the moment. Since my last article there have been high winds, unusual high temperatures and very little rain to talk about. Together with being in total lockdown, the number of ideas I had planned for 2020 have gone by the board. One of the things I look forward to in April/May is taking a visit to my favourite plant nursery in Redditch and the local garden centres. I like to see the health of the plants I intend purchasing. But no chance of that this year, I had to rely on people going shopping for the plants or ordering them from the internet.

Still, we work with what we've got this year. I have planted up my brassicas in pots and they are looking good, some of the root vegetables have grown and hopefully it won't be too long before we will be picking them. I have started to get the pots ready for planting out the beans and peas. Most gardeners will think I'm doing this a bit late, but any breeze that's about cuts through the garden and it's always a few degrees colder than others around me. All my fruit trees and bushes are a bit later in growth this year. They have been affected by last month's strong, cold winds. Those who read my articles will know I always like to try some new vegetable varieties, so this year I have gone for a tomato called Solena and a cucumber, Dominica. Both are grafted varieties which they tell me are disease resistant, high yielding and early picking; we will have to see if "it does what it says on the label". Being in lockdown I have done the jobs that I needed to do but haven't got round to others. They will have to be next year's projects. Like everyone who is self-isolating I feel concerned for the people who have no garden to sit in, it must be depressing not being able to open your back door and get into the fresh air. Still, the lockdown rules are changing week by week and hopefully the current situation will soon allow us to get out and about.

Stay safe until then. The Container Gardener



Rev John-a message from the Minister of St Wilfrid's and St Michael's

Dear Friends, although our church buildings are closed, 'the church' as people continues outside the building in acts of kindness and practical help to all. This is a very strong case to remind ourselves that 'church' is not a building, but more to do with relationships between people, and it continues outside the building.

During these months when the churches are closed, Sunday services continue in various forms by way of Zoom, streaming, phone conferences, emails, website updates and mailing out printed items. If you wish to be included in emailed Sunday services, midweek messages of encouragement or help, please contact me by my email address at the end of this article.

For the majority of people around the world, the coronavirus has brought rapid change in ways of living. One of the greatest impacts must be the social distancing; as human beings, the forbidding of human touch, and staying at least two metres apart, may not only bring a sense of isolation but at times even a sense of rejection. As someone has said, 'A hug speaks more than a thousand words'!

For those of us who enjoy going to church, there is a part in the service called 'The Peace'. It's when each person turns to their nearest neighbour, but more often to the whole congregation, and says to each individual, while offering a handshake or an embrace, 'The Peace of the Lord be always with you' and the response is given, 'and also with you!'

This tradition goes back many years and it reflects the acknowledgement and appreciation of the person to whom 'the Peace' is offered and received. It also reflects the loving and caring relationships that should permeate the church.

However, in the current situation, sadly our churches are closed and we cannot offer one another 'the Peace'.

'Peace' is a precious commodity and often in short supply. You can't buy it, you can't pretend you have it, you've either got it or you haven't. In many ways you have to search for it to find it; you have to receive it and share it.

We may be feeling we are losing heart and even faith in the events of the coronavirus, which leads to lack of peace. But it's important to remember that there is a peace that can be found, as our Lord said, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you'. Perhaps now is the time for you to grasp God's hand in faith and find that peace – it's probably the only hand outside your household which you can grasp with any confidence!

Wishing you God's blessings as we travel together through this difficult time.

Rev John

email: jlanglands@sky.com

Gun Hill Allotment Association

Despite the COVID-19 virus we have managed to sustain our allotment by making improvements to the site and the plots. Since March there has been more interest from people wanting allotments. We are a growing community and now have a waiting list of five. Unfortunately, due to advice from the National Allotments Society we are unable to allow the new members on to the site at the moment. We have allocated places for them when we are able to open properly.

Unfortunately our plan to open the community plots has been thwarted this season. We will be hoping to see them open when conditions improve. The positive that has come out of this crisis is that the allotments have never looked so good!

Our orchard is continuing to grow slowly and we look forward to them being productive in the next couple of years. All plans to do further maintenance on the wildlife garden were curtailed due to lockdown.

We were disappointed in not being able to join the cancelled VE day celebrations, but we did put up a table for tea on the allotment! We hope that the VJ day celebrations are able to go ahead in some form to give us the opportunity for a get together.

The North Warwickshire Allotment Federation is hoping to run a scaled down allotment competition this year. They will only be able to look at the top three plots on each site but will not be able to include the sites. That is a shame as this year the allotment is looking really good.

We have tidied up the verge alongside the perimeter fence and started to plant it up with shrubs and flowers; this has been slower than we would have liked, but lockdown has hampered a lot of our plans. Stay Safe!



Friends of Arley

Volunteers Required

We are an independent, enthusiastic group, set up to raise funds for projects within Arley Primary School.

We hold events throughout the year, aimed at raising funds to provide experiences and equipment for the school's pupils, in addition to that available from the school budget.

We hope that by providing these additional facilities and experiences the pupils will have a more rounded and fulfilling childhood.

Remember, they are our community's future...

To help with achieving this we would welcome any new volunteers (you do not need to have children at the school) and also anyone who has experience of bid writing for fund raising.

If you are interested please email
Lexie Gardner at Gardner.a@welearn365.com

*We look forward to hearing
from you!*





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