

EARL STONHAM RECORDER

ISSUE 244 – SUMMER 2020



We hope that this shorter electronic version of the Recorder reaches as many residents of Earl Stonham as possible and that they in turn can share it with others. In the current situation the Parish Council has been unable to arrange for the printing and distribution of the Recorder in the usual format. We hope that you enjoy reading the contents and that it helps you to feel part of a caring and supportive community.

Jen Henderson-Hamilton has decided to stand down as a parish councillor. I would like to thank her for all her work and support over the years. This does mean we will be looking for a replacement, so if you are interested please contact me or Jennie, our clerk. I would also like to welcome Henry Glasse who has recently joined the Parish Council.

It's a shame that the all the village plans for VE day etc have had to be cancelled and that the village hall has had to close, as it had previously been very well utilised by many of the village groups etc.

Hopefully everyone in the village has managed to stay positive and our village email system has meant that help has been forthcoming for the more vulnerable people. I would like to thank all those volunteers who have been collecting medicines, food etc – they have all helped make life a little easier for many people in these difficult times.

Blacksmiths Lane has become an impromptu meeting place for many residents, as walkers and bikers are able to stand on opposite verges in order to have a conversation, which helps them to feel a bit more 'normal'. Perhaps we have had more time to appreciate the hedgerows, fields and verges as well.

On a positive note, the scrap metal yard situated at the Tap is slowly being cleared, which is good news. The Parish Council is not required to hold meetings at the moment but any issues that concern residents can still be reported and will be discussed by email or a virtual meeting.

Hopefully the next Recorder will be on paper and might have news of village events, even if they are planned for 2021! We hope that you all stay safe and well. It looks like we will have to live with a new normal and make the best of it.

Colin Woods – Chairman



Our wonderful Rainbow tree - thanks to everyone involved, it is looking lovely! Do feel free to add things to it... and there are more photos on the village website at www.earlstonham.org.uk

Church services are being held via Zoom – if you would like to participate, please contact Frankie Wicks (711222)

Quiz nights (using Zoom) will be taking place soon – more information will be sent out via the village email list – if you would like to join in the quiz, please send an email to Recorder@btinternet.com

Perfect Perennials

Perfect Perennials will re-open on Thursday 14th May. The current guidance is that we could open on the 13th but we will not have time to get everything place by then, so we will delay for a day and make sure that we are ready and safe to open with certain limits and processes in place.

The Government has agreed that the risk is drastically reduced in outside spaces, but we shall still be enforcing social distancing and advising card payments where possible. We ask that our customers respect the systems we will be putting in place to ensure that they and we have as much protection as possible whilst allowing access to the Nursery. Thank you

Earl Stonham Village Hall



There is obviously not a lot to report at the moment with the hall locked down and all events cancelled. However we have had some good news – as you may have seen, the Hall was selected as one of the candidates for the *Tesco Bags of Help* scheme for January to March and we have just received over £1100 as a contribution to the hall refurbishment funds.

On the topic of refurbishment, we have taken the opportunity of lockdown to progress the grant applications and the one for the Lottery Community Fund has now been submitted. Covid-19 related bids are being given priority by them so it will be some months before we get a decision. The remaining funding is being sought from MSDC and work is progressing on this application as well.

We had planned to hold an open day at the hall to present the latest renovation proposals and give everyone the opportunity to provide any feedback. This clearly is not now possible, so we have put the presentation onto the village website as a ‘Virtual Open Day’. Please do go and have a look – if you go to the home page (earlstonham.org.uk) you will see the link and any feedback would be really appreciated.

Car Park

Unfortunately the hall car park continues to be used by large commercial vehicles as a temporary parking area and this is further damaging the surface. So a much bigger Private Car Park sign is going to be put by the entrance in the hope it may be more of a deterrent. Clearly this does not apply to village users so you can continue to use it as now.

Let’s hope it will not be too long before life can get back to something approaching normal but in the meantime I hope you all keep well.

Tony Turner

Chairman - Earl Stonham Village Hall Management Committee

Stonham Theatre Guild - Pantomime Auditions



This year's pantomime is...

The Little Mermaid
By Warren McWilliams

Auditions to be held via Zoom on Friday 29th
May at 7pm

If you would like to join us, whether it's on
stage or back stage, we would love to hear from you.

Contact Amy Johnson

Email: stonhamtheatreguild@gmail.com

Phone: 07388994374 / 01449 766719

(evenings/weekends only please)

**Please still bring your empty bottles,
newspapers & textiles to the village recycling
banks as they are still being collected. This
helps to raise funds for the village.**

Thank you!



Suffolk County Councillors Report



Firefighters support paramedics to help deliver life-saving care

Firefighters in Suffolk are joining forces with the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust (EEAST) to help provide frontline care during the coronavirus pandemic. Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service has volunteered and trained around 30 firefighters to work alongside paramedics to respond to 999 calls over the coming weeks. The firefighters are already blue light trained and will drive frontline emergency NHS ambulances, in turn freeing up paramedics to care for patients. The firefighters have completed an induction course at Newmarket Ambulance Station, which included familiarising them with EEAST's vehicles and equipment. They were also taught basic life support and safe moving and handling skills so that they can help transfer patients.

The fight against scams

Times of distress and disruption are a magnet for scammers and, sadly, now is no different. Action Fraud has reported that, in February alone, victims lost over £800,000 as a result of COVID-19 related scams. This figure is likely to be just the tip of the iceberg, as many will have felt too scared or ashamed to report, and others will be completely unaware that they have been duped. Here in Suffolk both residents and businesses have been targeted by fraudsters in a variety of ways. Trading Standards have seen emails that contain malware links and attachments, as well as those sending you to phishing sites, where the criminals attempt to steal your personal information. There have been reports of criminals knocking on doors and offering to go shopping for people who are self-isolating at home. Some purport to be from well-known charities such as The Red Cross, with others claiming to be from local community groups, including working on behalf of Suffolk County Council's Home, But Not Alone.

There are also reports of fake websites that imitate agencies including HMRC, offering false tax relief assistance. Trading Standards have highlighted all these scams on their social media channels as well as in their weekly email to over 700 Trading Standards Champions. Their followers on social media have helped share the information to thousands of people, who in turn have shared it with friends and family both on and offline. Consumer Champions are residents, businesses and community groups of Suffolk, many of whom share the information on their community websites or in newsletters. You can join the fight against scams by:

Reporting scams to Suffolk Trading Standards via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133 Following on Twitter, www.twitter.com/SuffolkTS, and Facebook, www.facebook.com/SuffolkTradingStandards, to help share messages to your friends,

family and followers. Sign up to receive a weekly email alert by going to www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight

Suffolk County Council to offer tenants rent deferral as part of support efforts during COVID-19 pandemic

Suffolk County Council owns and lets a range of properties and land to tenants throughout the county which are used in a number of ways, including the provision of care and education. During this challenging period, as residents of Suffolk stay at home to reduce the spread of infection and the majority of businesses remain closed, as a considerate landlord the council believes it should do what it can to support the local and regional economy through the management of its rental agreements with tenants. The authority has identified 87 of its most vulnerable tenants, which encompasses 123 properties. We have been in touch with each tenant to ask if there is anything we can do to support them at this difficult time. We believe these tenants should be given the opportunity to arrange deferral of their rent and charges for three months, should they wish to do so. This would give them a degree of financial support for a short period of time as the impacts of coronavirus on business continue.

Council continues to work with providers during Coronavirus pandemic

As the Coronavirus pandemic continues, the county council is keen to reassure people that it is doing everything in its power to support care providers. Along with the NHS and health providers, the care system is vital to our response to Coronavirus and they are truly on the front line in terms of supporting our most vulnerable. The demand for their services has never been higher and SCC is supporting them meet this challenge. The council has changed the way in which it pays care providers in order to ensure they are able to remain operational during the crisis. The council has also moved quickly to obtain extra capacity for care needs to be met by using CQC registered providers of home care that do not normally contract with the Council and buying more beds in care homes. The council's own Home First service is also preparing for increased demand and planning for sickness levels by initially redeploying staff from across Adult Community Services. Basic training is already underway to upskill or refresh the skills of these staff in order to be ready for redeployment. Adult Care Services are also working closely with the Home, But Not Alone hub to identify what other support can be offered to ease the pressure on carers as the crisis continues.

The council also recognises that the supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) is an ongoing, national issue for care providers. Whilst care providers are responsible for sourcing PPE for their service, the high demand globally has made this increasingly difficult, adding to the pressure and anxiety of frontline workers. The council has lobbied tirelessly to ensure that care providers are given the same prioritisation as health workers in terms of receiving PPE and will continue to do so.

In order to support our local care providers SCC are providing a centralised cell for PPE in Suffolk with a dedicated email address. The council has been collating information for Adults and Children's services, districts and borough councils, Suffolk Constabulary, and the Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service and this is then fed into the stock and procurement system. The council's procurement team has established some good supply chains, both nationally and internationally. Endeavour House, Ipswich, is the central base for all PPE delivery, storage, pack prep, and distribution. Packs are being sent out to frontline services in Suffolk on a daily basis. In the week of 6 April alone, 65 care homes were provided with the emergency PPE they asked for and the council has responded to every care provider that has approached the council for support.

Residents show their support for Keep Moving Suffolk campaign

Residents and organisations in the public and voluntary sector have come out in support of the county's Keep Moving Suffolk campaign. Led by Suffolk's Most Active County Partnership, the campaign supports everyone in Suffolk to get active from the safety of their homes and gardens, or during their one session of daily exercise away from their home, under the current COVID-19 pandemic social distancing arrangements. It's all about giving people tips and advice to support a healthy mind and body. The key focus is the website keepmovingsuffolk.com which is full of local and national information and resources that have been developed specifically to make it easy for people to become, or remain, active at home during these challenging times. The website has come about as a means to address the need to give people a range of options following the closure of gyms, leisure centres, and swimming pools and the cancellation of classes and activities.

Without us all taking positive action, physical activity levels could tumble and cause a long-term impact on physical and mental health and wellbeing in the county. The website launched on 1 April and, within its first week, the website was used over 2,500 times. There has also been great support through the Keep Moving Suffolk social media channels, where you can share with us your stories of how you are keeping active. On Facebook, visit [KeepMovingSuffolk](https://www.facebook.com/KeepMovingSuffolk) or on Twitter [@Most Active](https://twitter.com/MostActive)

Matthew Hicks - County Councillor for the Thredling Division

Tel : 01728 628176 Mob : 07824 474741 E-mail : matthew.hicks@suffolk.gov.uk



DR DAN POULTER MP

Member of Parliament for Central Suffolk and North Ipswich

As I sit to write this month's article, we continue to live in incredibly challenging circumstances, with the Coronavirus restrictions continuing to impact upon our day to day lives. I'd like to start by thanking each and every one of you for playing your part and staying at home, helping to protect our NHS and saving lives.

During this important national fight against COVID-19, I have been given leave by the Government to return to the frontline of the NHS working as a doctor, but I want you to know that I am still here to help you as your local MP and continue to stand up for the best interests of Suffolk. I am in touch with my office on a regular basis, where I am briefed fully and give regular instructions on constituency matters and how to help people locally who may be in need. My team and I are working extraordinarily long hours dealing with a hugely increased workload, helping people to access vital daily support, return home from overseas and providing advice to businesses to access Government grants.

We are very lucky indeed to live in Suffolk and I have been heartened to hear so many stories of communities coming together and individuals going out of their way to help elderly and vulnerable neighbours. It is times like these which bring out the best in people and I am proud to call Suffolk my home.

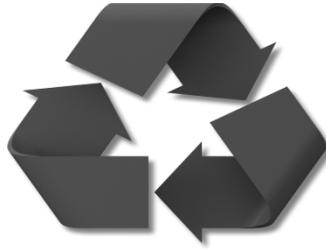
Suffolk's "Home But Not Alone" scheme is an outstanding example of the public and voluntary sector coming together to deliver help to those who need it. The number for those in need of genuine help is 0800 876 6926 lines continue to be staffed from 9am to 5pm 7 days a week.

Many businesses have been in touch welcoming the measures put in place by the Treasury, but of course there are still some who are left behind and falling through the net. The likelihood of social distancing measures lasting for many months, or even a year, is likely to put considerable strain on our pubs and restaurants. That's why I have written to the Chancellor to raise these concerns and I am hopeful that more can be done to help our local businesses and in particular, our pubs, cafes and restaurants in the weeks and months ahead.

As ever, I would like to close by paying tribute to my NHS colleagues, the Police and the many others on the frontline of our public services who are putting others before themselves to help in this crucial fight against Coronavirus.

If you would like my help, please visit my website www.drdanielpoulter.com for the latest information.

RECYCLING BINS TELEPHONE NUMBERS



If you see that the Recycling Bins at the Village Hall are nearly full, please call the following numbers:



Newspapers & Magazines
Boulton Bros
01473 830948



Glass
Indigo Waste Management
01842 820804



Textiles/Clothing
08000 902321

Please note that the number for Textile Recycling has changed and is now as above.

The 08000 number is correct – not 0800