

"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much" – Helen Keller

Bishop's Waltham *Matters - Update*

May 20
Issue 51a

We're Still Here!

The Parish Council office staff are all working from home, the groundsmen are still operating around the parish and the Councillors, although not meeting each other, are in regular communication.

Email: parishclerk@bishops-waltham-pc.gov.uk if you wish to make contact.

Alternatively, if you know the person you would like to speak with, phone numbers and email addresses of all staff and Councillors are on the website: www.bishops-waltham-pc.gov.uk

Support for the Elderly and Vulnerable

Cannot get out? Have no-one to help you? Want advice on what to do?

Urgently need medications or food delivered?

Call 01489 892323 (weekdays 9am – 4pm).

A group of volunteers from local community organisations are ready to help you.

Community Concerns

The Parish Lengthsman is continuing with litter picking duties around the town. He reports a significant increase in discarded tissues.

Please ensure that these are disposed of correctly:



The Council has received several reports of an increase in the amount of dog faeces around the parish. Please clean up after your dog, dispose of the waste in the bins provided, or take it home with you.

Many people are taking advantage of the lockdown to undertake some house and garden clearance. As the tip is currently closed, we understand that it is difficult to dispose of the resulting waste. Following reports of bonfires in the parish we sought advice from the Police who stated:

"Bonfires on private land are permitted, but Hampshire Fire and Rescue must be informed (023 8064 4000)".

If you are intending to have a bonfire, please consider the impact on your immediate neighbours.

The Town Team and Parish Council would like to encourage everyone to get involved in VE Day celebrations, while observing guidelines around social distancing of course! Get the date in your diary now and start being creative!



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Volunteer Support Line

80 local volunteers from 11 community organisations have been providing support for the elderly and vulnerable these past weeks. So far, they have responded to over 100 calls for assistance around 75% of which required visits to people's homes.

The feedback on the service to date has been excellent and the Council is very grateful to all those organisations and volunteers who have made themselves available. One resident said "thank you to Debbie for being so friendly and cheerful when she delivered my shopping".

We have provided advice on various issues including social distancing, contact details for shops providing deliveries, childcare for a key worker, refuse collection and bank opening times. We also helped a resident who had suffered a power cut, another who had ants in the kitchen and even reunited a lost ferret with its owner!

We will continue to manage the support line for our parishioners as long as necessary.



01489 892323

Council Grounds Report from Trevor Veck, Senior Groundsman

The Ground Staff are currently working to keep all of the Parish grounds open and looking as nice as possible. Our initial focus was and is, to keep the open space parkland areas accessible for residents to take their daily exercise.

Although there is no sport just now, we are still maintaining football and cricket pitches so that they are as ready as possible once we get back to normal. For the time being we are not cutting the grass in the play areas, they are currently closed.

Our main aim is to try to help keep Bishops Waltham looking as nice and as normal as possible during this difficult time. Please help us to do this by taking any litter home and clearing up after your dog.



Council Halls Report from Alison Trott, Administration Assistant

Following guidance from the UK Government, to help contain the spread of Covid-19, we have temporarily taken the decision to close all our public buildings, don't worry, it won't be forever!

For those of you looking ahead, dreaming of family gatherings and letting your hair down, we are still taking enquiries for both the Jubilee Hall and Priory Park Club House. Finally, thank you wholeheartedly to the residents of Bishop's Waltham, for your ongoing messages of support. We are very much looking to the future and look forward to welcoming you back as soon as possible. To make an enquiry, please contact Alison Trott: halls@bishops-waltham-pc.gov.uk or 01489 892323.



Parish Council Meetings

Meetings of the Council and its Committees are currently suspended in line with the Government's instructions. Changes in the law have removed the need for the Council to hold its Annual Meeting in May and the current Chairman will continue in post until May 2021, unless the Council decides otherwise at a subsequent meeting. The completion of the Annual Accounts for the Council, which normally need to be approved by the Council by June each year has now been deferred until August.

Bishop's Waltham Community First Responders

Our local Responders have remained on duty all day, every day, to answer emergency medical calls, arriving before the ambulance 95% of the time.

If you require urgent medical attention dial 999.

A Responder will usually be tasked, do not be surprised that they will arrive wearing PPE.



Support the Meon Valley Food Bank

Bishop's Waltham Parish Council is asking you to support the food bank in our local area during this difficult period.

Donations can be put into the Food Bank Trolley at Budgens and it will be delivered to the food bank weekly.

Check the Meon Valley Food Bank's website for current shortages:

www.meonvalleyfoodbank.co.uk/

Donations of money can also be made online.

Thank you!



A final thank you!

The Parish Council would like to thank the local shops that have remained open during this crisis. The butcher, baker, greengrocer, fishmonger, post office, Co-op, Budgens, Londis and D&G hardware have all served us admirably.