



# DELIVERING FOR THE ECCLESHALL AREA

This newsletter has been going since December 2015, and usually it focuses on topical news and stories of what I have been doing as the elected representative on Stafford Borough and Staffordshire County Councils. It strays from the stories supporting individuals to those that benefit wider communities. It picks up immediate concerns as well as those built up over many years, that I have tried to have a positive impact on and resolve.

In these uncertain and concerning times, for many in our communities, I thought that for this edition I would invite some guest contributions instead from various groups from across the area, detailing some of the things that they have been doing to support everyone in our community, covering across the areas in the west of Staffordshire. These are some of their unedited contributions.

**Take care and stay safe, as we battle this together.** But please also consider how we can stay in touch with everyone during these difficult times, whether it be simply by ringing friends to catch up with them as they self-isolate or through volunteering for the County Council, for food deliveries or supporting our NHS. With everyone's support and help we can get through this together.

In this edition, we talk about :-

- So many great support groups working in their communities to support those most vulnerable

There are ways of contacting them to volunteer, donate or to get the help and support you, or friends and neighbours might need

## Borough and County Councillor Jeremy Pert

### Eccleshall Parish All Pull Together — Eccleshall Cares

from Joseph Cheetham-Wilkinson, Chair and founder, Eccleshall Cares

A challenging time has been met head-on and with gusto by community-spirited Eccleshall parish residents this last few weeks, as a team of locals have set about ensuring that no vulnerable people are forced to leave their homes for necessities.

'Eccleshall Cares' - the brainchild of Joe Cheetham-Wilkinson - have so far brought together a team of over 140 amazing volunteers willing to give their time to shopping and delivering groceries, collecting prescriptions, and even just being on the end of the phone for a friendly chat.



### Eccleshall Cares

**Eccleshall Cares set up in direct response to support local people**

In their first week the team delivered food and prescriptions to over 70 residents, and the number using the service grows every day.

Eccleshall Cares have quickly set about creating a system which tracks

and records all service users and their needs, while keeping them safe with telephone payments and non-contact deliveries.

Thanks to the financial support of Holy Trinity PCC, local residents, the Rotary Club and a generous grant from Eccleshall Parish Council, Eccleshall Cares are also now able to offer completely free essential supplies to those who may be experiencing a challenging gap in income, so nobody in Eccleshall parish will be in need of essentials.

They have also been able to set up a brand-new helpline for those who aren't online, or who just want to hear a real human voice, on 07534 914629.

You can visit the new website to find out more or request assistance if you are self-isolating in Eccleshall parish at :-

[www.eccleshallcares.co.uk/](http://www.eccleshallcares.co.uk/)

The group are especially keen to ensure that nobody is missed in the more rural areas of the Parish, so please could readers do everything they can to **ensure this information is passed to anybody you know who may be willing to help or who may need support in the Parish but outside of Eccleshall town itself.**

## Chebsey, Leaving No One without the Support they need

from Marg Ainsworth-Hickman, Chair, Chebsey Parish Council

Chebsey Parish is like all others parishes - struggling to comprehend the magnitude of the current epidemic sweeping the world.

However, even during these difficult times, we are doing everything we can to support all parishioners and have over the last week made contact with every household in the parish offering our support.

Many acts of kindness are taking place, local residents are offering help to those who are self-isolating and vulnerable, including collecting prescriptions, purchasing shopping, general support and even an offer of dog walking.



We have arranged weekly 'drop-offs' of fresh fruit and vegetables, facilitated increased 'door-step' milk deliveries and made arrangements for Perry's of Eccleshall to deliver goods once a week.

Individuals who have on-line orders with spare capacity are also being asked to include neighbours food requirements with theirs.

Many residents joined in the nation's 'clap for NHS workers' and we have parishioners who are busy sewing masks and scrubs for Stafford and Stoke NHS Hospitals.

Over the last few days a local person has been busy baking fruit cake for distribution to those self-isolating and / or vulnerable, this is being dropped off at the same time as their shopping and prescriptions. We've even used individuals daily walk time to litter pick around the parish !

Individuals have also volunteered to help Eccleshall Cares.

So, as a community we are doing our bit to help others during these difficult times, whilst at the same time trying to remain safe.

For more information please contact Marg on 01785 760844 or 07514237465, alternatively via email [hckmmic@aol.com](mailto:hckmmic@aol.com).

## News from Seighford Parish

from David Price, Chair, Seighford Parish Council

As I write these notes we are in the midst of the Government imposed lockdown to counter the Covid-19 crisis. This afternoon, during the Government's Coronavirus Crisis briefing, Michael Gove MP urged us to stay at home and not to visit the countryside.

However, there has been an invasion of the countryside since the lockdown was announced and complaints have been received from farmers and their staff in Seighford Parish that they feel vulnerable because of the large increase in the numbers of walkers using footpaths and bridleways running through their land who are not taking sanitising precautions at gateways.

My farming relatives in Shropshire have told me that the same thing is happening there.



*St. Chad's Church, Seighford, supporting local people in the community*

The Rev Doug Heming, Vicar of Seighford has set up a support group of local volunteers to help those in need of help during the crisis with shopping, fetching prescriptions etc. The scheme is working well with many volunteers having come forward mainly from Great Bridgeford.

### To contact me

#### EMAIL

[jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk](mailto:jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk)

#### TELEPHONE

07740 924659

#### POST

Bank Farm,  
Croxtan,  
STAFFORDSHIRE  
ST21 6PE

### For Further

#### Information

– please visit

[www.jeremypert.c](http://www.jeremypert.c)

[o.uk](http://o.uk)



## Yarnfield and Cold Meece Community Support – Covid-19

from John Fraser, Clerk to Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council

In response to the Covid-19 outbreak Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council have joined forces with the community to put in place a support group to help people who need to self-isolate. Many acts of kindness are being seen every day with people offering help to their neighbours.

There has been a tremendous response to the request for volunteers with over 40 people coming forward to offer their help. The purpose of the group is to make sure no one living in the parish who is having to self-isolate is unable to get the help they need. Services provided by the volunteers include;

- Befriending – telephone calls
- Shopping for essential food
- Prescription and medicine collection

This support group will provide a local link to the work that is being organised by the Borough and County Council.

While it is too early to see the end of this horrific illness, the willingness of the community to come together to give their support will be a clear legacy that we can build on.

For more information please contact John on 07546 456771 or via [www.ycm-pc.org.uk](http://www.ycm-pc.org.uk)

## Call for Volunteers who can Sew to Support the Effort

from Marg Ainsworth-Hickman, Chair, Chebsey Parish Council

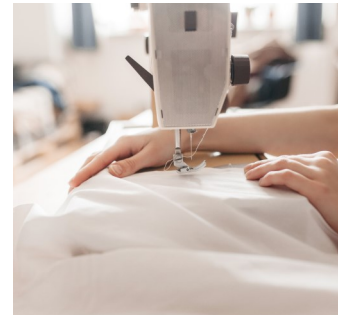
A call has gone out by The Corner Patch in Eccleshall for sewers in the local area to help with the making of surgical scrubs, masks or hats for use not just in the NHS but for use as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by any Key Worker.

Meters of fabric has been arriving over recent days to help supplement the national supply of PPE and to make sure that local hospitals and medical professionals have the supplies that they need — to protect themselves as well as their patients.

So :-

- if you can sew —and this can be done at home — please consider volunteering
- if sewing is not your thing then please consider donating to support the buying of materials

For further information please contact Janet Markwell on 01785 859360  
[janet@thecornerpatch.co.uk](mailto:janet@thecornerpatch.co.uk)  
[www.thecornerpatch.co.uk](http://www.thecornerpatch.co.uk)



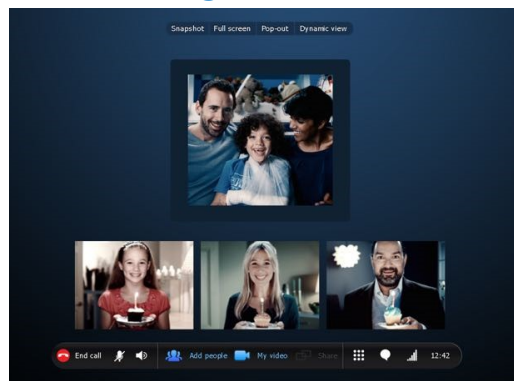
Call gone out for volunteers or financial support or material to help with making surgical scrubs, masks and hats for use by key workers

## Staying in Touch with Friends and Family during the Lockdown

Not being able to see friends and family during the period of lock down and self-isolation of those most vulnerable can be something difficult for people to bear, particularly those already living on their own or those who feel lonely.

But there is so much technology out there facilitated by computers and smart phones that allow us to still see people remotely. These include packages like [Skype](#).

Some of the other packages include being able to interact with more than one set of people at the same time, including platforms like [Google Hangouts](#), [Zoom](#) or [Ring Central](#), most of them for free. **They're worth a try.**



Technology allows everyone to stay in touch



To contact me

**EMAIL**

[jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk](mailto:jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk)

**TELEPHONE**

07740 924659

**POST**

Bank Farm,  
Croxtan,  
STAFFORDSHIRE  
ST21 6PE

**For Further**

**Information**  
– please visit

[www.jeremypert.co.uk](http://www.jeremypert.co.uk)



## Yarnfield Village Green

from John Fraser, Clerk to Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council



*Yarnfield Village Green is looked after by Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council and is central to many key local events normally held throughout the year*

Yarnfield village green is looking lovelier than ever with a spectacular display of daffodils that bring a bit of welcome cheer after the long winter.

The Parish Council, in partnership with their new grounds maintenance contractor, Trent Grounds Maintenance, has increased the frequency of the cutting of the parish green in an effort to enhance the appearance of the green.

They are also in discussion with the Borough Council to take on responsibility for the whole of the village green.

## New Stafford Borough Local Plan 2020-2040 : Issues and Options Consultation



*This consultation remains open until noon on Tuesday 21st April 2020*

Stafford Borough Council has a statutory requirement to determine most planning applications against an agreed set of criteria for the area (- The Local Plan).

There is also a requirement to review this Local Plan, which has as its base central government's Policy Framework (NPPF), once every five years.

This five year review is happening now for Stafford Borough. And it is quite a

significant review as many of the original framework policies have changed subtly since the original NPPF was introduced in March 2012.

This latest current consultation, which goes on until noon on Tuesday 21st April 2020 is asking for views on the Local Plan policies—these will help create the framework for what land is developed for residential as well as commercial use [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/forward-planning-consultations](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/forward-planning-consultations)

## Standon Parish Council Partner with Oak Tree Farm

from Peter Banks, Chair, Standon Parish Council



*Supporting local community projects for the past twenty five years, including All Saints Church yard and the surrounding area*

Oak Tree Farm provides training and supported occupation for adults with learning disabilities, in a rural environment, based on a small holding just outside of Hilderstone. They also undertake various projects in the community.

I've been working with The Oak Tree Farm group who provide a service caring for some of the local churchyards. We - the Standon Parish Council - have used them in developing our local secret oasis (- the pond area adjacent to the church) which is a communal area where people can walk or sit to reflect.

To contact me

**EMAIL**

[jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk](mailto:jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk)

**TELEPHONE**

07740 924659

**POST**

Bank Farm,  
Croxtan,  
STAFFORDSHIRE  
ST21 6PE

**For Further**

**Information**

- please visit

[www.jeremypert.c](http://www.jeremypert.c)  
[o.uk](http://www.jeremypert.c)



## HS2 Parish Councils Petition the House of Lords

from Trevor Parkin, Chair, Stone Railhead Crisis Group

Stone Railhead Crisis Group was formed in November 2016 to oppose the HS2 proposals to build a construction railhead and permanent maintenance depot on a 2.9km long site between Walton, Yarnfield and Cold Norton. In January 2017, SRCG's technical team of experts identified a far more suitable location to build the facility near Keele Services and have campaigned tirelessly ever since for this alternative to be adopted.

SRCG's case is compelling on engineering, environmental and economic grounds and would save the taxpayer over £70 million in construction costs alone. It would also remove the need for separate railhead and maintenance facilities at Ashley near Manchester airport, which are likely to cost in excess of £150 million. Unfortunately, HS2 has been unwilling to change its plans, despite the obvious benefits of the alternative scheme.

After giving evidence on behalf of local parish councils on three occasions to the House of Commons Select Committee, SRCG's witnesses were preparing to do likewise for Stone Town Council and Yarnfield & Cold Meece and Chebsey Parish Councils in the House of Lords on 31<sup>st</sup> March. However, this appearance has now been delayed indefinitely because of the Covid-19 outbreak.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> February the Prime Minister confirmed that the HS2 project would be given the green signal, subject to the agreement of the budget and updated business case. Whilst on the face of it this means HS2 will go-ahead, a lot has happened in the last two months to suggest that a pause and a

rethink is required.

With the country in lockdown and millions of commuters and business travellers working from home and discovering that they can operate effectively and hold meetings remotely, it seems inevitable that this will lead to a longer-term change in travelling behaviours. Accordingly, HS2's already very weak business case is likely to collapse altogether.

# SRCG

Stone Railhead Crisis Group

If we factor in the run-away costs of HS2, which already exceed £128 billion, and the Chancellor's proactive measures to support the UK economy over the coming months, we must conclude that the project is not a national priority and has no justification to proceed.

I therefore join our MP, Sir Bill Cash, in calling for the project to be scrapped immediately before any more precious ancient woodlands and environmentally sensitive habitats are destroyed.

## Doing Our Bit as Communities Help Communities

Lots of people are focused on doing their bit to support everyone in their own communities—the schemes and details are all different, reflecting the richness of our communities and their individuality. This effort does more than supplement the work that the professionals - in health and social care for example—have been doing, in that it helps keep people safe and out of greater support, to prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed.

People have been extremely innovative in their use of technology—for example hosting online quizzes through to undertaking virtual school trips or virtual dinner parties to keep people's spirits up and enthusiasm going.

There are still opportunities to volunteer at the Borough Council in the Community Hubs at [www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk/covid-19-support/coronavirus-community-support-effort](http://www.supportstaffordshire.org.uk/covid-19-support/coronavirus-community-support-effort) and at the County Council's iCare at the following location [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/I-can-help/I-Care.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Coronavirus/I-can-help/I-Care.aspx). Thanks for all that you are doing.



*Many in communities have come together to support those more vulnerable - it's not too late to join them*



To contact me

**EMAIL**

[jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk](mailto:jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk)

**TELEPHONE**

07740 924659

**POST**

Bank Farm,  
Croxton,  
STAFFORDSHIRE  
ST21 6PE

**For Further**

**Information**  
– please visit

[www.jeremypert.co.uk](http://www.jeremypert.co.uk)



**BOROUGH AND  
COUNTY  
COUNCILLOR  
JEREMY PERT**

Bank Farm,  
Croxtan,  
Staffordshire  
ST21 6PE

Phone: (07740) 924659

Email:  
jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk

[www.jeremypert.co.uk](http://www.jeremypert.co.uk)



*EFestival returns for  
2020 in a new guise,  
as a post-COVID  
objective*

**Representative  
STAFFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY & STAFFORD  
BOROUGH COUNCILS**

## DELIVERING FOR THE ECCLESHALL AREA

Councillor Jeremy Pert is the elected member to Staffordshire County and Stafford Borough Councils for the area west of Stafford over to the border with Loggerheads and as far north as Trentham and most of the areas in-between (- for the exact area please see website—[www.jeremypert.co.uk](http://www.jeremypert.co.uk)).

I have been an elected Borough Councillor for the past nine years and prior to that was a Parish Councillor for ten years on Eccleshall Parish Council. I am the Cabinet Member for Community & Health on the Borough Council and Cabinet Support Member for Community for Stafford Area at County.

I am heavily involved with numerous community groups including Eccleshall Eagles Junior Football Club, Stafford Together, Stafford United Charities, etc.

For more general details and work please visit [www.jeremypert.co.uk](http://www.jeremypert.co.uk)

## And now, for after we've passed COVID-19 .....

from the organisers of EFestival, Eccleshall

### Hold the date ! EFestival 2020

EFestival will be back this year, but in a different way. This period of lockdown has impacted on so many of us, personally, economically, socially and more, and that's why we're doing EFestival - something to look forward to for all of us, as a community.

**Businesses** - We're looking to work with as many local businesses as possible, to change the shape of EFestival for good - it was always meant to be about Eccleshall after all. We want to attract as many visitors as possible, getting them enjoying all that Eccleshall has to offer, so we need everyone on board. We want people circulating around our retail outlets, our pubs and bars, enjoying our B&Bs, buying sustenance from our food outlets all whilst enjoying outstanding music and having a great time that gets them coming back for more.

If you're a business in Eccleshall and you want to be part of EFestival 2020,

drop us a line on

[zoe@bentsbh.com](mailto:zoe@bentsbh.com). Everyone's welcome, so please don't be shy.

**Socialisers** - We're asking you to hold the date, even though we can't tell you exactly what that date will be....yet. We're hoping for the August Bank Holiday weekend, as usual, but if we're not able to run it then, it will be the first weekend after the restrictions are lifted. So.....:

- pop the 'date' in your diary
- get following the Facebook page - we'll have ticket info going live soon:  
[facebook.com/eccymusic](https://facebook.com/eccymusic)
- tell your friends - get them coming here to have a good time and help support your local businesses
- drop us a line if you want to be part of the volunteer crew. We want help with marketing

**Let's make it an event to remember**

### Four Dreaded Letters – GDPR (and Your information)

There are clear policies and protocols that are used when publishing this newsletter including an ability to have your name removed from further newsletters and communications and the right of anonymity.

As part of the data policy, I am committed to protecting and respecting your privacy in compliance with EU - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016/679, dated April 27th 2016. In addition to which you have the following rights with respect to your personal data :

- The right to request a copy of your personal data that is held about you
- The right to request that your personal data is corrected, if inaccurate or out of date

Please feel free to contact me with any data questions or concerns that you have.

To contact me

**EMAIL**

[jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk](mailto:jeremyp@jeremypert.co.uk)

**TELEPHONE**

07740 924659

**POST**

Bank Farm,  
Croxtan,  
STAFFORDSHIRE  
ST21 6PE

**For Further**

**Information**

– please visit

[www.jeremypert.co.uk](http://www.jeremypert.co.uk)