

Editorial

Well it's been an unprecedented few weeks and I really hope that this finds you safe and I know that there are lots of ways (mentioned below) for trying to keep in touch with other as we all work this next difficult phase, but please remember we can still wave smile and talk to each (social distancing and numbers allowing)

If you have any articles for inclusion in hopefully the next edition, May 2020, please could you let me have them by 24th April either by email to alisonjstone26@gmail.com or deliver a hard copy to Sycamore Cottage, Main Street, Knossington.

Many thanks
Alison

Parish Council

For those of you who are not aware your Parish Councillors are Nigel Gates (Chair) George Cook (Vice Chair) Brian Cobb, Jeremy Latham-Smith and Julia Seary.

The Parish Council now has a website and all editions of OTGW are also be posted on the site – www.knossingtonandcoldovertonpc.org.uk.

In addition to a regular slot in OTGW a Parish Council WhatsApp group has been set up to keep parishioners in touch with current issues it is even more vital now than ever before
If you would like to join the WhatsApp group, please send your name and mobile number to Julia Seary 07786515882.

STAY CONNECTED FOR RURAL RUTLAND AND LEICESTERSHIRE

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, or feel isolated due to the Coronavirus outbreak; if you just need help or a friendly chat, please call us.

We are a group of volunteers helping those in all of the villages around Oakham and Melton, and our service is free.

Please ring Hilary Butler on 07974 578211 or 01664 454021(email hilarybutler18@gmail.com).

Hilary will give your number of your village volunteer, who is known and trusted.

Things we can do:

- ☑ Shopping
- ☑ A friendly phone call
- ☑ A chat over the garden fence
- ☑ Pick up prescriptions
- ☑ Help if you fall ill
- ☑ A cooked meal

- ☑ Any village events that we are able to run
- ☑ Keeping people informed and up to date
- ☑ Anything else you would like help with!

Please do not let strangers into your house or hand over any money for shopping unless you know they are one of our trusted volunteers. We are happy to provide photo identification for our volunteers and you must contact Hilary if you have any concerns whatsoever

Police and Crime Commissioners election

This is just to give you advance notice of the local Police and Crime Commissioners election which will be held on Thursday, 7th May 2020. As usual, the village hall will be the local polling station. The opening hours for the voting public are from 7.00 am to 10.00 pm.

Village Hall Notes

Cancellations. We regret that, because of the present restrictions, the Village Hall Committee meeting which was planned to take place on the 18th of March and the Inter-Village Quiz, planned for the 13th of May have had to be cancelled. We hope that the Corvid-29 virus epidemic will have run its course in time for the Committee to stage the Village Fayre, planned for the 27th of June, and the Hog Roast on the 12th of September. We shall keep you informed.

Lady Chairman. The Committee are pleased to welcome the safe, if early and unscheduled, return of Jackie Gillie, our Lady Chairman, and look forward to her leadership in the planning of the summer events throughout the coming months. Your Committee will continue to communicate with each other by telephone and electronic means while this disruption continues, in the hope we can fulfil the intended programmes.

Personal Thanks. I would like to express my sincere personal thanks to the ladies who have organised their "Stay Connected" plan, and all those other lovely people in the village who have been so kind in their generous offers of help to me in this present upheaval.

On behalf of the Committee, I send you all our best wishes for a safe and comfortable journey through these difficult times.

Thank you.

Gary West - Secretary

Easter Lillies

At Easter, for more than twenty years, the church in Knossington has been decorated with lilies which are funded by donations, and families or individuals are invited to write a dedication in the "Lily Book" in memory of family members or friends who have died.

If you are new to the village and would like to remember a loved one in this way please contact either Jane Ball on 454176 or Sue Sills on 454584.

The "Lily Book" will be circulating around the village at the end of March/beginning of April.

Your mobile library service



Mobile A - Route 11

Community	Stopping Place	From	To
Somerby	School	10.00	10.30
Somerby	Owston Road	10.35	10.50
Knossington	33 Somerby Road	11.00	11.10
Knossington	Village Hall/Playgroup	11.15	11.35
Cold Overton	The Hall	11.45	12.05
Owston	Village Hall	12.25	12.40
Marefield	Snows Farm	13.25	13.35
Lowesby	Telephone Box	13.45	13.55
Keyham	King Street, Bus Stop	14.15	14.25
Hungarton	Main Street Post Box	14.35	14.50



Visits third Thursday of month
2020

16 Jan 16 Apr 16 Jul 15 Oct
20 Feb 21 May 20 Aug 19 Nov
19 Mar 18 Jun 17 Sep 17 Dec



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Somerby & District Horticultural Society

Village Open Gardens – Sunday 21st June (hopefully)

Somerby will be the focus of our open gardens event this year. We are planning to have a good range of gardens in the village open on this date.

You don't have to be a garden group member or have a large garden to take part. Visitors enjoy seeing small gardens, courtyards or gardens that are "works in progress" as well as beautifully designed and planted established gardens.

If you think you might like to open your garden please contact Angela Fisher for further details

Angela Fisher on 01664 454265 or angelasfisher@tiscali.co.uk

Just a little reflection

It was March 2020.

The streets were empty, the shops closed, people couldn't go out.
But Spring didn't know
And the flowers began to bloom, the sun shone, the birds sang.
The swallows would soon arrive, the sky was blue, the morning light arrived early.

It was March 2020.

Young People and children had to study online, and find occupations at home.
People could no longer go shopping, or go to the hairdresser.
Soon there would be no more room in hospitals,
and people continued to get sick.
But Spring didn't know.
The time to work in the garden arrived. The grass grew taller and greener.

It was March 2020.

People have been put in lockdown to protect Grandparents ,
families and children.
No more meetings for coffee or meals or family celebrations.
The fear became real and every day was the same as the last.
But Spring didn't know.
Cherry trees, apple trees and others blossomed.
The sticky buds appeared, and the pussy willow.
People started reading, playing with their families,
learning a language, singing on balconies
and urging neighbours to do the same.

It was March 2020.

People supported one another and focused on what really matters.
People realised the importance of health, and discovered how trivial
some things were now.
The economy of the country that had plummeted became important
to everyone.
But Spring didn't know.
The flowers gave way to fruit, the birds built nests, the swallows arrived.
The day of liberation came. People found out on TV.
The virus had lost. People took to the streets.
They sang, cried, hugged and kissed, without masks or gloves.
And that's when Summer came, because Spring didn't know!
She had continued to be there, to do what she always does,
despite the virus and the fear and the death.

Because Spring didn't know she taught the people the power of life and hope.

Church News

Across the Whatborough Parishes

Cold Overton, Knossington, Owston, Lowesby, and Tilton on the Hill

Dear Villagers,

I write on the morning of Tuesday 24th March with the third version of this letter in as many days as the advice changes daily. The Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England have urged everyone to follow the instructions given by the Prime Minister to stay in their homes in a national effort to limit the transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19). This follows the announcement on the evening of Monday 23rd March, by the Prime Minister Boris Johnson, of sweeping restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of the virus.

Sadly, this means all of our village churches will close with immediate effect in line with the Government's instructions. There will also be no Church weddings or baptisms. Funerals at the graveside or in crematoriums can still take place, although they will need to be in line with the Prime Minister's statement. In a joint statement the bishops said: "In the light of the Government's measures, announced by the Prime Minister this evening, we urge everyone to follow the instructions given. We will give a fuller statement of advice as soon as possible. Let us continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable, and build our communities, even while separated." There are daily updates on the Diocese of Leicester's website with direct links to the relevant Church of England updates.

My 'tech. savvy' colleagues in the national Church of England and in our local Diocese of Leicester are already posting and streaming prayers and reflections. I include a few links below. Locally, we will endeavour to discover with you the best ways of keeping in touch while apart.

I'm pleased to say our May wedding couple, at St Peter's Knossington, have managed to change their church wedding and reception to May next year, we very much look forward to celebrating with them then. I also look forward to re-organising our May baptism, at All Saints Lowesby, to give us a Christening to look forward to as well. It helps to look forward with hope although we know there are challenging times ahead.

With thanks and prayers for all those who are helping friends, neighbours and strangers at this time. Please do take care of yourselves and keep safe.

With my prayers and best wishes,

Jayne

Revd. Jayne Lewis

jaynelewis28@gmail.com [0116 259 7244](tel:01162597244)

Prayer resources

I am conscious that I speak as a Church of England priest but wish to find ways of including all Christian denominations, those of other faiths, and those of no faith who would like to pray or ask for prayer in the weeks ahead.

Prayer about the outbreak:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer with children:

God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their family and friends.
Be with them and help them to find peace.
We pray for the doctors and nurses and scientists,
and all who are working to discover the right medicines
to help those who are ill.
Thank you that even in these anxious times,
you are with us.

Help us to put our trust in you and keep us safe.

Amen.

#Everyday Prayer with Leicester Diocese:

Sunday at Ten

A short ten-minute slot based on the day's Lectionary reading, with prayer, a thought for the day and even an artist's interpretation of the passage. These will go live every Sunday at 10am on the Diocese of Leicester Facebook page. If you missed the first one which went out last Sunday (22 March), you can see this and future videos by entering the below into your computer/tablet/smart phone's search engine:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/diocesefleicester/videos/>

Daily (micro) Office with Community of the Tree of Life

The Community of the Tree of Life are offering three bite-sized daily offices (prayers) every day. These will go out on their [Facebook page](#) at 8am, midday and 9pm every day. You can access these and download the words for the service (an abbreviated form of their usual daily office) from [their website](#): leicestertreeoflife.org

Sunday Worship with the national Church of England

Catch up with last week's Mothering Sunday Service with the Archbishop of Canterbury from the crypt at Lambeth Palace (and sign up for further services):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-pfaMdu8uNo>