

# ST SWITHIN'S NEWS

*News and views for Lower & Upper  
Quinton, Admington and Meon Vale*

## Summer 2020



*Business as usual – but only for scarecrows!*

## June & July

*inside :*

*Lockdown, lockdown, lockdown.... .... page 4*

*Council updates .... page 6*

*Scarecrow invasion .... page 10*

*When this is over ... .... page 14*

*plus all news and views from our community*

# Contacts

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## ***Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group***

Chairman: Paul Milliken 01789 721229  
website: [www.quinton-plan.org](http://www.quinton-plan.org)  
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## ***Quinton Parish Website***

## ***Admington Parish Council***

Chairperson: Sue Cook 07767205400  
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## ***District Councillor***

Edward Fitter 07976693080  
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## ***Meon Medical Centre***

01789 720820

## ***Quinton & Admington Village Hall bookings***

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## ***Nosh & Natter; Trips 4U; Meon Vale church events***

Barbara Craig 01789 720630

## ***Ladies' Circle***

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# *St Swithin's News*

## Summer



**In the past couple of months many of the things that we considered as “normal” have had to change. Among them is the temporary demise of printed copy of St Swithin’s News, replaced by this online version.**

Until now, with every household in the parish receiving a hard copy, it had not been thought necessary. However, the present COVID-19 lockdown regulations make it impossible for our volunteer deliverers to operate.

While the downside is the probability of a smaller readership there is the plus side that it can be in full-colour! Eventually a return to “normal” with both versions will give us the best of both worlds.

For most of us this has been an enforced time of waiting for things to change, but as the Revd Jim Edie explains in **Lockdown, lockdown, lockdown** (page 4) there is a positive side to waiting.

While we continue to wait for the church to be open everyone is welcome to take part in the **online Zoom Services** (page 5). For those concerned about the state of the church grounds the waiting is over, since the Churchwardens’ notes were written grass cutting has been resumed.

With restrictions making it difficult for many to cope, anyone in need of assistance should follow the advice of the **Parish Council Chairman** (page 6) and ask for help.

Lockdown has also had its creative side with our streets being taken over by a **fantastic display of whimsical scarecrows** (page 10).

### ***Visitors Coming***

***Why not stay at .....***

### **VICARAGE FARM**

**BED & BREAKFAST**  
***“Home from Home”***

**Chris Spencer**  
**01789 721108**

**e-mail:**  
**chrismspencer17@gmail.com**

**Contributions from individuals and organisations in our parish welcomed**

**Copy deadline for the Harvest issue is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Contact the editor: [nicholas.bond@farming.me.uk](mailto:nicholas.bond@farming.me.uk) or phone 01789 721311**

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# Lockdown, lockdown, lockdown.....

## Reflection by the Revd Jim Edie

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Despite writing in May my guess is that as you read, we will still all be in lockdown. In April, I commented in one of my sermons that I feel a bit like I am stuck in a scene from one of Dr Seuss's books; 'The Waiting Place' in *Oh The Places You'll Go!* Here is a short extract:



'You'll start to race [...] headed, I fear, toward a most useless place. The Waiting Place... for people just waiting. Waiting for a train to go or a bus to come, or a plane to go or the mail to come, or the rain to go or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow or the waiting round for a Yes or a No or waiting for their hair to grow. Everyone is just waiting.'

One thing we can be sure of though is that, unlike 'The Waiting Place', our *waiting*, our time of social distancing, our sacrifice of our usual freedoms, is not useless. It is sacrifice that will save others, will protect our amazing NHS staff, and will eventually overcome this awful virus. There will be a *good news* story.

In the church, Easter was somewhat different this year, with services conducted over Zoom, but the Easter message of Jesus's sacrifice and victory over death for all rings as true now as it has for the last 2,000 years. It is the ultimate good news story! In fact, the word Gospel literally means "good news". It is a message of hope, that in all that life throws at us, God is with us and God is for us. This message of hope was sung by members of several UK churches in collaboration, to sing a blessing over the UK. It features the Kingdom Choir and a few other famous faces. If you have not watched, I encourage you to do so at - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUtl3mNj5U>, I hope you feel blessed by it.

There is some irony that, whilst the doors have been closed, many UK churches have seen a growth in attendance through their online services; people seeking (perhaps) for something deeper in this time of difficulty and turmoil. If you would like to join us to find out more about the good news of Jesus, we would love to see you. Just get in touch to get the Zoom details for the services (see page 5). The clergy and church members continue to practically support and pray for all in the local communities, so please do contact us if you have any needs or for prayer.

Every blessing

**Jim Edie** (Assistant Curate of Quinton, Welford, Weston and Marston Sicca)

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# News from St Swithin's

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## Online Zoom Church Services

**Sunday Morning Service at 10am**

**Kids Church (15 mins) at 11.15am**

**Morning Prayer on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10am**

**Evening Prayer every day at 6.30pm**

*Contact the Rector, Reverend Ros Greenhalgh for login details*

*01789 751546, revdrosgreenhalgh@gmail.com*



## Churchwardens' Notes

During this time of lockdown our church has remained closed but help and support in our community continues. The church grounds unfortunately cannot be maintained in the fantastic manner to which we have become accustomed. Hopefully before long the directive from the Church of England will allow churchyard maintenance to resume. At this point we will be seeking help to restore things to normal.

The many fundraising initiatives which take place during the year have of course been cancelled. The church is reliant upon fundraising while also creating a good social life for the village. We look forward to a time we can be back together in church, at social events and doing the many jobs to look after our wonderful Grade 1 building.

Look after yourselves and Keep Safe.

*Jane & Judi (Churchwardens) – see page 2 for contact details*

## Jim Edie's Priesting

The Revd Jim Edie is due to be ordained Priest this June. Sadly due to COVID-19, the normal joyful celebrations will not be possible. Whilst the dates, the how and the where are open to discussion, we have Bishop Rachel's assurance that the Priesting will definitely happen as soon as possible on a much smaller scale.

It is traditional on these occasions to organise a gift to celebrate the Priesting from those in the Benefice. Anyone who would like to contribute is asked to send a donation (by hand or mail) to The Revd Ros at The Rectory, Church Lane, Welford on Avon, CV37 8EL by Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June - cheques should be made payable to 'St Peter's Welford PCC'

*Written on the 14<sup>th</sup> May and much might have changed after:*

**Coronavirus** – A Quinton Parish helpline (01789 549432) was quickly created for residents to ask for any help they needed and it continues to operate. Volunteers were sought and many offered. Shopping has been done for some and we purchased a mobile bank card reader so that the volunteer could buy the shopping and the customer only pays when the goods are delivered with contactless, Apple and Google Pay supported. We will not ask for your card or your money until your shopping is in front of you.

So many good people have become even better but sadly the unscrupulous are exploiting whenever they can. I get almost daily warnings about scams that seem to be launched in minutes after some new initiative is announced. I delivered a prescription this week to an elderly lady who had been telephoned by someone saying he or she was from a company wanting her bank details as they were changing the way she would be paying. She smelled a scam and gave nothing away. It was confirmed to be a scam.

**Please do not think it embarrassing or feel awkward to ask for ANY help.** Coronavirus has suddenly created many different challenges and perhaps the biggest being for those who suddenly find their income completely gone. By now, government arrangements should have kicked in for many but I do know that not everyone whose income has ceased is now entitled to that support. We can not help with money itself, but could find a way for you to eat. All is as confidential as you want. Either contact me (details on page 2 of this Newsletter) or the helpline.

**Parish Council meetings** – a variation has been made to the normal rules about the holding of parish council meetings and annual requirements. By the time you read this we will have held the first online meeting to conduct the essential items and will have learnt how we can continue to do these until we can once again physically meet with residence attendance. Planning applications continue to be discussed by the PC with Stratford District Council having a different way of operating to decide on them. You can always e-mail the Parish Clerk with any questions at [quintonpcclerk@gmail.com](mailto:quintonpcclerk@gmail.com)

Take care and stay safe protecting yourself and by doing so, protecting everyone else.

*Robert Spooner* Chair Quinton Parish Council

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# District & County Council

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## *Reports from our District and County Councillors*

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**First, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone for helping to continue to save lives during the COVID-19 pandemic.** Neighbours are looking out for each other, residents are volunteering with the NHS Volunteer Responder programme, Quinton Parish Council has set up a dedicated help hotline (01789 549432) and the community are being creative and bringing much needed fun back to our villages by displaying excellent scarecrows. Everything you are doing is making a difference, thank you.

Secondly, as your Stratford-on-Avon District Councillor, I wanted to update you on Council services. The staff at the Council have been working very hard. For example, our refuse and recycling collections are able to continue and we are issuing business-saving grants. Please contact me if you need help with services or you can go directly to the District Council at [www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk) or telephone 01789 267 575. A reminder of some of the services that Stratford-on-Avon Council provides or help with during this crisis are: housing and homelessness, business support grants, council tax payments and waste collection.

Please continue to follow Government advice, found at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Take care, keep safe and have a peaceful summer.

*Edward Fitter* District Councillor

**I too would like to thank the community for the tremendous work and effort that has been achieved over the last few extraordinary weeks.** We have protected and saved lives. It is amazing to know that within the County and Districts of Warwickshire the Authorities have delivered over 5,000 parcels to the most vulnerable in just a few weeks with the help of an army of volunteers - this is in addition to parcels delivered by the NHS to their recognised shielded people. District and County have never worked harder together and I must thank all the dedicated staff of the Councils, from Bin Men to Care Workers all helping us get through this lockdown.

The County Council has been working hard to reopen the Waste Sites and this is likely to happen on the 18th May with a booking system through Warwickshire County Council either online - see website <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/coronavirus> - or by phone - 01926 410410.

WCC has set up a business loan facility and for advice please contact me and I will direct you to our Economic Department. I can be contacted on - [cllrmsseccombe@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:cllrmsseccombe@warwickshire.gov.uk) or 01295 680668.

The Council has largely worked remotely over the last weeks, however many services have still continued. Others have had to stop for social distancing and lack of public gatherings. Our libraries have closed but we have increased our book delivery service which has provided comfort to many people.

Please keep safe and well.

*Izzi Seccombe* County Councillor

# NOSH AND NATTER GROUP

Hello everyone and I hope that you are adjusting to the new circumstances and keeping safe.

## *Luncheons, Trips 4 U and Meon Tea and Chatter- 3Ms Cafe*

Following the recent announcements from the Government there was no indication when large gatherings of people can take place or those aged 70+ may meet and move around freely. So, I am unable to announce when lunches, day trips or Meon Tea and Chatter can be resumed.

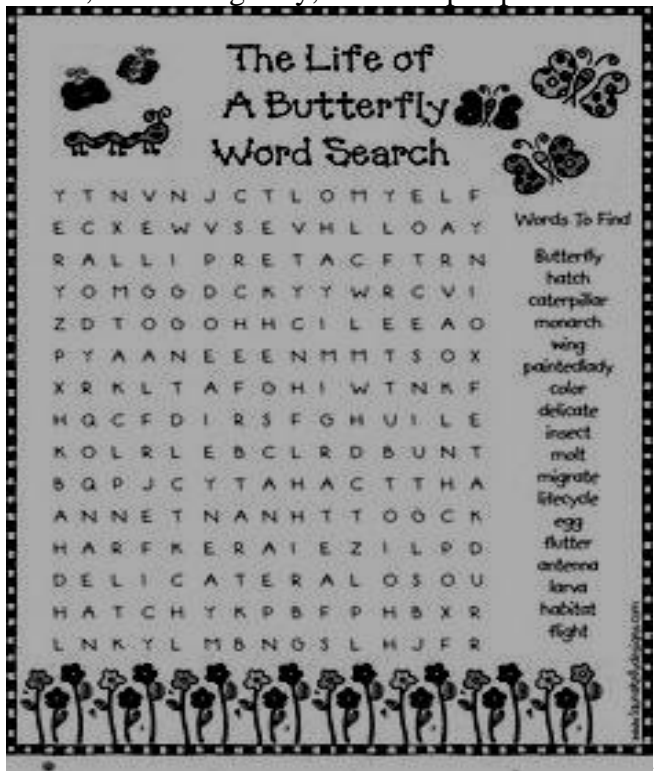
## *Holidays*

Our summer holiday to Beaumaris, Isle of Anglesey, has been postponed until next year – from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2021. So put the dates in your diary as this will be a lovely trip. With regards to the Turkey Tinsel Holiday at Potters, I am still hoping that this will go ahead but waiting clarification from Johnson's coaches and Potters Resort.

We are currently working on Nosh and Natter Sparkle and anticipate this to be delivered by end of May.

Here is a word search on the life of a Butterfly for your enjoyment.

*Barbara Craig*



**Keep Safe – Wash your hands – 2m safe distance**



# MEON VALE CHURCH ACTIVITIES

**During the Coronavirus outbreak we have had to suspend all groups and events. This includes our Thursday Toddlers Group and monthly Messy Church.**

We remain available for spiritual support over the phone and are working with the Parish Councils and local volunteers to provide practical help to those self-isolating.

Updates and news of when activities will run again will be posted on the Meon Vale Church and Meon Vale Toddler Group facebook pages.

**Our clergy are available for telephone support and you can contact by phone or e-mail – see contact details on page 2.**

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# Scarecrow invasion

In May, thanks to the enthusiasm of Chloe Breen, scores of scarecrows of all shapes and sizes, many thanking key workers or marking the VE day celebrations, sprang up throughout the parish.

Inspired by scarecrow festivals in other parts of the country, Chloe thought it would be something to cheer Quinton up, and, not content with just creating one in her front garden, she set up a facebook page – “MEONHILLSCARECROWS 2020” – inviting others to join her.

“I set it up on the first of May and then began to wonder if I would be the only person to have a scarecrow in my garden,” says Chloe. “But within five days 70 others had been registered and at the last count, including those which have not appeared on the facebook page, there are now about 200.”

Chloe would be thrilled to see her initiative become an annual event in the Quinton calendar, perhaps every May to commemorate the sacrifices made to overcome COVID-19.



*The first to arrive was on Hill Lane, in Upper Quinton ... others soon followed*



*... but some did not make it up the hill ...*



*...while others never tried.*



*There were high jinks in Friday Street ...*



*...partying in Back Lane and*



*... support for key workers everywhere ...*

*... meanwhile in The Firs it was working from home!*

If you have not managed to see all the scarecrows before they have to go home you can find them on facebook.



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# Quandary for QUADS

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**There was considerable disappointment that the QUADS spring productions – the Murder Mystery and the YoungQUADS musical adaptation of Peter Pan – had to be cancelled.** While it is hoped to be able to stage both of these next spring there is a distinct likelihood that the group's principal production, the much anticipated annual pantomime, will also fall victim to the coronavirus.

Even if casting and rehearsals were able to take as place as usual, in the late summer and autumn, it is most improbable that filling the Village Hall to anything like capacity will be permitted by the end of November and questionable as to whether audiences will be willing to attend so soon after months of social distancing.

It certainly looks as though all productions are on hold for at least a year but at the moment it is a question of 'watching this space' as with so much that was 'normal'.

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## Neighbourhood Plan

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### Update

The Government has advised that public consultation on our draft Plan will have to be postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. However, Stratford District Council has agreed to review our Plan so we can minimise any delays to getting it adopted post-consultation. Please visit our website - [www.quinton-plan.org](http://www.quinton-plan.org) - for the latest information. As a reminder our Plan will help to determine where future housing development (if any) is permitted within our Parish.

*Paul Milliken* Chair Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

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## Skittles on the Green

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*An afternoon of traditional family fun*

**Saturday 4 July**

*Skittles, afternoon teas, hot dogs, raffle and more*

Please support this community event as proceeds go towards supporting our historic village church.

**We are reserving the date but are mindful that in the current circumstances we may not be able to proceed**

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# A farmer's request

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Living in the countryside is a privilege, especially at times like these, when, for so many, fresh air and space are at a premium. With time on their hands and restrictions on exercising being eased, an increasing number of people are rediscovering the joy of walking in the country.

But please remember to stay on the designated footpaths, unless you have the specific permission of farmer or landowner to walk elsewhere; keep dogs under control, especially in the vicinity of livestock when they should be on a lead; and close gates behind you.

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# A big thank you ...

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To all those who are supporting the vulnerable and less able during the COVID-19 crisis – especially the youngsters in our community who have volunteered to help in whatever capacity they can.

To those who kindly stepped in and helped distribute the Easter issue of *St Swithin's News* when some of the usual volunteer deliverers were unable to do so.

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# When this is over

*May we never again  
Take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with my neighbour  
A crowded theatre  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine check up  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.*

*When this ends,  
May we find  
That we have become  
More like the people  
We wanted to be  
We were called to be  
We hoped to be  
And may we stay  
that way – better for each other - because of the worst.*

Laura Kelly Fanucci

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# Ordinary treasures

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In the second year of our marriage, when I was expecting William, we lived in the flat above what is now the Post Office and Premier Shop, in St Swithin's Drive. We sub-let it from the lady who ran what I suppose was a fancy goods shop. After we moved to Upper Quinton around the time of William's first birthday, Joyce Guest took it on as Post Office and shop, before the present owners.

Ken, now reluctantly retired, was a carpenter at the time. Later, he became a building and carpentry contractor. One evening he returned from working on a building site with an old fashioned shiny, brown stoneware casserole which he had dug up. I remarked that it was a pity it lacked a lid.

Off he went the next day to investigate further; a little more digging and he unearthed the lid! I was very pleased with this offering and never realized what a boon it would turn out to be. Fifty years later the casserole is still in regular use. Casseroles, stews, hotpots and (much later) chilli con carnes have all cooked beautifully and



the pot is really easy to clean. Narrow at the top and bottom, with a rounded middle, it's a very pleasing shape. I have other casserole dishes, about five at the last count - why on earth do I need that many? Still, the old brown pot is my favourite and the one I always reach for unless cooking for a large number. It's like an old friend and brings back memories of the early years of our marriage. Who would have thought that such an ordinary utensil was going to be such a treasure throughout our married life?

To be continued...maybe.

*Marguerite*

# St Swithin's Church

Quinton with Admington

Regular services in St Swithin's Church have been suspended for the duration of the COVID-19 restrictions

You are invited to join the daily Online Zoom Church Services

See page 5 for details

**Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals** - To arrange these services please speak to the Rector, The Revd Ros Greenhalgh – see page 2 for contact details

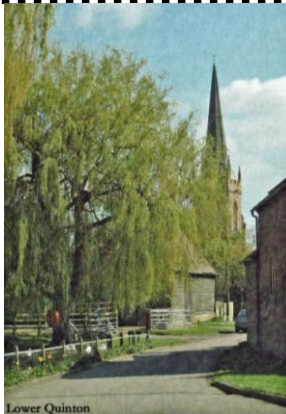
## Notelets for sale ~

all proceeds to Church  
Funds

£0.50 each

Pack of 10 ~ £3.00

2 Packs of 10 ~ £5.00



Lower Quinton

## Running out of cards?

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