



Herstmonceux Parish Council  
Serving the people of  
Herstmonceux Parish

Issue 3  
22 May 2020

# HERSTMONCEUX VOLUNTEERS



Welcome to the third of our Newsletters. We're well into May now and the natural world continues to bloom around us. We continue to enjoy connecting through this newsletter and in other ways with those of you who are asked to stay at home at this challenging time.

There has been lots written in the press about how these difficult times have brought out the best in so many communities across the country. This is definitely the case in Herstmonceux. All the volunteers have lost count of how many times they have to insist that they are very happy to be able to help, 'it really isn't too much trouble, honestly!' So while thanks are of course appreciated, all of us who are able to be of assistance feel fortunate too. New friendships are in the making. (As in the beautifully captured photo from Michael Collins right!). Much talk of a bit of a party when it is all over, and it is so heartening to be able to solve some problems, even to anticipate some requests. Only one of my readers here will understand how thrilled I was to find a proper round white cabbage this week!

While some small adjustments have been made to the guidance to the public, for many of you who are staying in, whether shielded or simply choosing to stay isolated, it will be some weeks yet before any changes are considered. Until the end of June you are still **advised to stay at home at all times and avoid non-essential face-to-face contact. So we look forward to continuing to keep those weekly shops arriving on your doorsteps and prescriptions whistling round the village. Other challenges taken on too, so just ask!**

Do remember to mail any suggestions for future editions to [LCAV@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk](mailto:LCAV@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk).

Handwritten submissions are also welcome. And meanwhile stay safe and keep smiling.

*Pippa*

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email:  
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Dedicated helpline:  
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## A SEASONAL POEM

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### ECHOES

Imagine the wind carrying  
the secrets of ages  
Imagine stories and legends  
curled up in leaf-ships  
sailing on the vast ocean of air  
to reach me in softest whispers  
As I sit beneath the birch tree  
dreaming into distance hearing  
trees singing their epics  
listening to songs sung in the grasses  
while the birds join the song-stream  
And I am in silence spell-bound  
at such treasures given so freely.

by Julia Desch

Julia, a poet and an artist, grows and hand dyes her own wool fibre from her Wensleydale sheep in Bodle Street. She loves to work with her own wool as it brings together her love of animals, nature, colour, texture and rhythm in design and pattern making. We hope to include a picture of one of her wonderful Wensleydale wool art pieces in the next edition. Julia's studio will hopefully re-open to visitors in due course.

## QUIZ

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### Last time's answer.

David Richards was born in Bodle Street. He was a Brigadier when he masterminded Britain's successful intervention in Sierra Leone in 2000. He went on to be Chief of the Defence Staff under David Cameron and his eminent career gained him a knighthood. He took the title Lord Richards of Herstmonceux.



### QUESTION

The Sussex Trug was invented in Herstmonceux. Who invented them and in which year?

## CLERK'S CORNER

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Hello all from the Parish Office,

I hope that you are all enjoying the latest bout of sunshine. Parish Council work continues around this period and earlier this week we held our first public meeting over the internet. I must admit to feeling a little anxious beforehand, there is always a worry that computers won't work, or wifi cuts out. In a house with children and a dog, I also had to find a tidy and quiet corner that I wouldn't be disturbed in! There certainly was some coming and going as some of us had a bit of a battle with technology but all came out well in the end and business was transacted as usual. Hurrah!

Look after yourselves as ever, *Clare the Clerk*



## TEA STORIES

The cakes kindly provided by The Little Bake Shop were welcomed enthusiastically on May Day and it was good to hear of the phone being lifted all over the parish. The volunteers who delivered had a lovely welcome on the doorsteps and it was a good opportunity to meet new people for a quick chat.



## VE DAY

We asked a couple of local residents for their memories of the end of the war in Europe. It was lovely to see all the flags out in the village, and to share a key moment of history, though I am sure everyone missed the contact that would have been so easy back then.

*From Pauline Giddins, Magham Down*

I was eight on VE Day, and living in West Hoathley, having followed my father all over the country for the last five years as he served in the RAF. As a young girl my impression of the war was that it was a really exciting time, we watched the planes fly overhead, the soldiers in the streets and at night we huddled under our metal dining room table in candlelight with our cats, dogs, piglets, chickens and small pony! We were far too young to really understand what was going on. When the nightly air raid warnings sounded I thought of it as Dad returning home.

I remember VE day as being even more exciting with all the village out dancing in the streets, people smiling, kissing everyone, and flags all waving. It was a massive party atmosphere that lasted all week. Mum was so happy and I realise it now – Dad was finally coming home for good!

*From Jane March, Cowbeech*

My recollection of VE Day is of my father driving a tram in Cardiff where he was stationed in the Air Force! We had come to Cardiff on our way home to Hampshire and the day marked the first time I had seen or tasted icecream! We headed home to Hampshire on the Aust ferry – no bridge in those days. It only took two cars at a time so it was a very slow process getting between England and Wales.

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## FOODBANK

Thank you to Herstmonceux residents for their additional support to Hailsham foodbank recently. We received beautiful tulips from the castle to give to clients and volunteers, received financial donations and people have been getting volunteers to buy an additional item for us when they've been doing their shopping. We give food to families in the area throughout the year but at this current time we have seen a large increase in people needing help so especially appreciate each donation we receive.

Thanks again

Julie Coates – Hailsham foodbank Manager

[www.hailsham.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.hailsham.foodbank.org.uk)



## SCRUBS

The Sew Far Sew Good team of stitchers comprised of Irene, Jane (pictured), Anne, Tania, Karen, Lynda, Katie and Eleanor have made 30 sets of scrubs, eleven head bands, lots of masks and numerous laundry bags for the staff at Chestnut Tree Hospice who are trying to protect their patients, themselves and their families from the virus. Thank you so much for the time, effort and care you have taken to make these amazing items.

*Colette Lethbridge*

## REMEMBER THE GOVERNMENT AND NHS ADVICE.

For those who are vulnerable and 'shielded' during the outbreak you should stay at home at all times. Do not leave your home to buy food, collect medicine or take exercise – neighbours and family may be able to help with shopping. If not please call the helpline on **07934 712707**.

If you are worried about your own symptoms or other health issues, visit NHS 111 online or, if you cannot get help online, call 111.

Staying at home and reducing contact with other people can be hard. So be sure to stay in touch with relations and friends over the phone or on social media. Spend time doing things you enjoy, and if you can, take some light exercise at home. Remember this situation is temporary and by staying at home you are helping to protect yourself and others.

Spending time in green spaces can benefit both your mental and physical wellbeing. If you can't get outside much, you can still aim to keep windows open to let in fresh air and get some natural sunlight.

## PHARMACY DELIVERIES

Many of you are now very familiar with Angie Creasey's wonderful team who deliver prescriptions from Herstmonceux pharmacy. As the pace of working life increases for some of the volunteers, we would be grateful for a minimum of 48 hours notice for collection of a prescription if at all possible. Of course we will do our best to help any more immediate need. Please call the helpline on 07934 712707 as usual.

Please pass on this newsletter  
and the helpline number

**07934 712707**

to anyone you believe may  
need our services.

No request too small!