



Herstmonceux Parish Council
Serving the people of
Herstmonceux Parish

Issue 4
17 July 2020



Thanks to Stephen Dean for creating such an iconic way for Herstmonceux to express our thanks to the NHS and front line workers.

VILLAGE INFORMATION CENTRE

Good news that the VIC is back. It will be open Tuesdays 10.00 am to 12 noon and Thursdays 10.00 am to 12 noon as from 30th June 2020 and you can also call during that time on 01323 833961.

If you've run out of reading matter do check their book selection, yours for a small donation.

HERSTMONCEUX VOLUNTEERS

email:
LCAV@herstmonceuxparish.org.uk

Dedicated helpline:
07934 712 707

HERSTMONCEUX VOLUNTEERS

Welcome to the fourth of our Newsletters! It's July already, and we are all wondering where the year has gone...sadly we also know the answer. This has been the strangest of times and for some in our community in Herstmonceux a very difficult and sometimes tragic few months. But on a brighter note we have come together in an amazing local and indeed worldwide effort to combat this unfriendly virus, and as we have done so, we have had an opportunity to make new friends, to support each other and to appreciate anew the many pleasures in a quick chat, a helping hand, a bit of joined up local intelligence!

The government guidance has been at times unclear and I know those of you who are shielding have found these anxious times. The current government guidance to those of you who have been advised to shield until 31 July is reprinted on the last page of the newsletter.

Now there is more clarity it is the right moment to reach out again to the whole parish to explain how we will continue to offer support.

As a group of volunteers what we most want to say to you in this Newsletter is that anyone who wishes to remain shielded will be supported

So don't worry – we are not disappearing on 31 July! We will not be deserting our friends, old or new. We expect many of you are looking forward to more independence, less reliance on all the family, friends and neighbours who have looked out for each other. But be assured the Helpline number will continue to be manned going forward. And our service to the Parish will continue and evolve into a safety net for all. No-one should feel without support or isolated in Herstmonceux, virus or not.

If any of you know anyone who has not been in touch during the pandemic, but could still benefit from some of the services we offer, then please suggest they call us, or call on their behalf. There will still be a shopping/prescription service, and indeed we will always try and help or advise with other (non-medical) needs if we can.

It won't always be Pippa on the end of the Helpline Phone – much as I shall miss my regular chats with so many villagers. From the 20 July just leave a message on the answerphone – **07934 712707** – and your call will be returned later in the day, or the following morning, hopefully with a way to address your need.

If, and we all hope it's a very big 'if', things get more serious again with the virus, the team is ready and willing to step up once more, as many will again retreat to the safety of their own homes. But let's hope that's not the way the next few weeks will go.

Let's keep in touch and prove that these recent months have delivered something of value in new connections and friendships!

With best wishes

Pippa and the team

LOCKDOWN GALLERY!

With thanks again to Herstmonceux Castle, The Little Bake Shop and Rivermead Nursery for helping to brighten the long weeks.



QUIZ

Last time's answer.

It's probably fair to say the Trug was made famous in Sussex rather than invented! The Trug evolved from an Anglo-Saxon basket called a "trog", a wooden vessel carved out of solid wood and used around the farm. Thomas Smith, a Herstmonceux trug maker exhibited his trugs at the Great Exhibition of 1851 and several were bought by Queen Victoria as presents for members of the Royal Family. And the rest is history.



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CLERK'S CORNER

Dear all, I hope you are all keeping safe and well still. In some respects time seems to have stood still since lockdown began but of course it has also created a whole new world of Health and Safety, and Risk Assessing work!

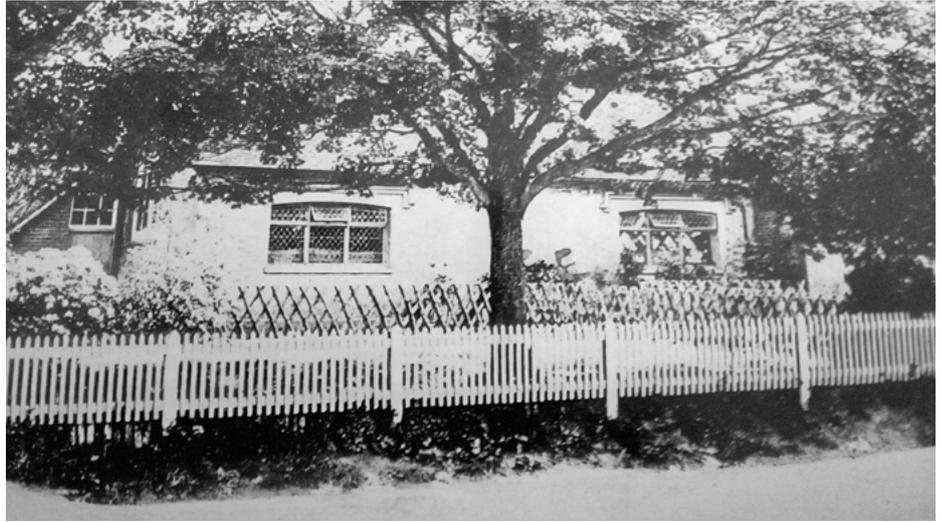
I am now back in the office more regularly although the Thursday Morning Open Office will not resume just yet. Council will begin to meet in person again this month, albeit at a safe distance. We are also soon to reopen the children's play area and the public disabled toilet facility. Please do continue to keep me updated or contact me through Facebook, the Parish Council website, on the office phone 01323 833312 or my work mobile number 07842 515268.

Our Thursday evening clap for the NHS may have come to its end but I'd like to say that we continue to feel so very grateful to all of our NHS and other front line workers. Thank you lovely people.

With best wishes,
Clare the Clerk

HERSTMONCEUX PRIMARY SCHOOL AT 150

We thought you would enjoy these excerpts from “Herstmonceux Primary School 150 Years”. School closures are not entirely new! Nor participation in big national events such as we were all looking forward to for VE Day.



Above right: An old post card of the school postmarked 1905.

Above: Herstmonceux Primary school as it is now, complete with rainbow.

Excitement abounded on December 19th 1909 when electric light was installed in the school. Herstmonceux must have been one of the first rural villages in the country to have a domestic electricity supply. Baron Charles Von Roemer, who was Lord of the Manor, provided the service from his generating plant at Lime Park.

†

On June 16, 1911, the school was closed for a week (yes, a whole week) for the celebration of the coronation of King George V.

†

A few weeks later 170 villagers, probably including several pupils, were present to watch for aeroplanes as a ‘European Air Race’ took place with one of the legs being from Dover to Shoreham, and many of the aviators using the coastal railway line to assist their navigation.

†

On April 9th 1913 there was more serious news. One of the pupils, Fred Brett, had measles, and within a week only 45 children out of 200 were at school. By April 18th the number fell to 26 but still the school stayed open, then on the 21st, the total number of children who arrived that morning was only 14 and within an hour permission was given to close the school for one week. When they reopened staff almost outnumbered the pupils – just four boys and three girls. Further messages from the Ministry of Health closed the school for a further week and then until May 9th. As this was immediately followed by the Whitsuntide holiday, it was apparent that the school had not functioned properly for five weeks!

†

War was declared on August 4th during the summer holidays, so the first reference to it is on September 21st when the children were allowed out to see off the local members of Kitchener’s Army. That Autumn, Mrs McDonald, wife of the Rector, brought along material to be made into garments for Belgian refugees and a month later, the children had completed 16 garments.

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Thanks to David Calvert for his wonderful research and so many resonant stories for our time.

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PHARMACY DELIVERIES

The pharmacy delivery service now has capacity so it's worth checking with them, or with neighbours who might be willing, but if you prefer, our service is still available with a bit of notice! Please call the helpline on 07934 712707 and do make sure your prescription is ordered and confirmed as ready to collect.

Please pass on this newsletter and the helpline number

07934 712707

to anyone you believe may need our services.

No request too small!

THAT'S ALL FOR NOW!

Thanks to Sam Gleadow for designing our Newsletters so brilliantly – we'll hope to be back later in the year.

REMEMBER THE GOVERNMENT & NHS ADVICE

From 1 August, the government will pause shielding unless the transmission of COVID-19 in the community starts to rise significantly. This means the government will no longer be advising you to shield and you'll be advised that you could go out to more places and see more people, for example:

- you can go outside to buy food, to places of worship and for exercise – keeping two metres away wherever possible and in any case at least one metre with protective measures in place
- you can go to work, as long as the workplace is COVID-secure – but carry on working from home if you can
- children who are clinically extremely vulnerable can go back to school (when the rest of their class goes back)

You may still be at risk of severe illness if you catch coronavirus, so stay at home as much as you can and continue to take precautions when you do go out. You can do this by washing your hands regularly, avoiding touching your face and keeping two metres away from people outside of your household or bubble wherever possible, and in any case at least one metre with protective measures in place. Consider using a face covering if appropriate for you.

Government guidance, including on the use of face masks, is regularly updated and there will certainly be more in the News about these changes so keep an eye out around 1 August and if you do need support remember the helpline number 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.

BUS SERVICES

You might be almost ready for a change of scene! Cuckmere Buses have been back for a month now and the 195/6 service runs every Wednesday leaving from the Brewers Arms, Herstmonceux at 10.14 am, arriving in Eastbourne at 10.50 am, and then returning leaving Eastbourne at 1.30 pm arriving back in Herstmonceux at 2.03 pm.

For peace of mind for passengers Cuckmere Buses have fitted screens around the drivers and will be providing hand sanitisers and wipes as well as masks for passengers who do not have their own face covering. They will be limiting their passenger numbers to help with social distancing and would ask for your support and understanding in this area. They are pleased to be back and would very much like to see you!

The 98 service is also back, leaving from the Brewer's and going to Tesco's in Hailsham. Around every two hours. Worth checking in advance.