



Whats Going On?

New Look Issue number 1

MARCH 2020

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Colour Online

[www.essexinfo.net/
bulmervillage](http://www.essexinfo.net/bulmervillage)

Soon Changing to:
[e-voice.org.uk/
bulmerpc](http://e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc)

Inside this issue:

Village hall News	2
Skylarks	2
Village Hall Lottery	2
V.E. Day	3
Editors Comment	3
Village Mutterings	4
Nature Diary	4-5
County Broadband	5
Parish Council	6-7
Notice Board	8

**Isolation help is
available to
anyone who
needs it.**

**Turn to the back
page for a list of
your village
volunteers**

COVID-19: BULMER LOCALS GROUP TOGETHER TO COPE

As the nation battens down the hatches to fend off the Covid 19 Virus, the older generation will find isolation most difficult.

Loneliness is already an issue faced by many elderly people, it is thought of by some an invisible epidemic in itself. So the closure of many societies and the fact that social events will be cancelled may leave some more alone than ever.

In this modern age of internet shopping most of us are familiar with ordering our shopping on line and booking a delivery or pick up slot. Not everyone has access to the internet and if they do may not have tried online shopping before. Even those of us who are used to the process are find-

ing delivery slots unavailable, and having to plan well in advance.

It is at times like these when we need to look out for each other more than ever. Do you know anyone who may struggle with being isolated at home?



A group of Bulmer residents have decided to try to help. Volunteers from across the local area has divided up the village and have delivered their contact details through every door. If you are struggling to get supplies, they would be happy to help. They can pick up an online order, run an errand or just be on the end of a phone for a chat.

They will observe the current social distancing advice by avoiding physical contact and keeping

a 2 metre distance. They will leave deliveries at the door.

The group would be happy to have more volunteers too. If you are an expert online shopper, who has a little extra time, could you help someone else in your street get theirs?

What's Going On? Is proud to support the fantastic group of people. Please get in touch with them if you would like a hand, or if you can offer a hand to someone in need.

Please look out for their card through your door. (A list of contact numbers can be found on the back page) and get in touch with them. Alternatively you email your request to

whatsonbulmer@gmail.com.

Our thanks in advance for this thoughtful gesture. Stay safe and healthy everyone.

Bulmer Village Hall News

We are all looking forward to a very busy few months at the Village Hall as we are planning a variety of events which we certainly hope many of you will come along to.

The first one is the Spirit and Liquor tasting evening to be held on Saturday 8th April at 7.30pm. Bread, cheese and nibbles will also be served and the price of a ticket will be £8. These can be obtained

through our Facebook page, or whatsonbulmer@gmail.com or by ringing Emma on 07908677776.

The next event will be the V.E.day celebrations to be held on Sunday 10th May. This is a joint effort between St Andrews Church, Village Hall and Parish Council. Following a service in the Church, a lunch is being held in the Village Hall at 12.45. The lunch will consist of fish and chips, a pudding reminiscent of the time with tea and coffee. Ashley Cooper will give a short talk on for-

mer residents of Bulmer who were involved in the conflict and this will be followed by entertainment. Ticket price is £10 adult and £5 children (10 and under) and the closing date for tickets is 25th April. These can be purchased from Liz on 269935 or Maggie on 374758.

To see us into Summer, Alan Dixey will be holding another Collectors Exhibition on Sunday 24th May. If you have never been to one of these Exhibitions please do try to make this one. There are many fascinating items

on display and very knowledgeable people around who will be able to answer all your questions. Refreshments will also be available throughout the day.

Thank you to everyone who renewed their Lottery subscriptions so promptly this year. Your support is much appreciated and is now an essential source of income to the Village Hall. It is costly running such an old building to keep it in good order so we thank you for supporting us.

Hoping to see you at our events this spring.

Village Hall Lottery Results

	Jan	Feb	Mar
1st	Mr M. Crome	Mr and Mrs R. Alston	Mrs B. Rawlins
2nd	Mr I. Hepburn	Mr M. Cromie	Mr A. Vicos
3rd	Mr and Mrs A. Burbridge.	Mr P. Fulcher	Mrs V. Martin

If you are new to the Village and would like to support the Village Hall why not join the Lottery. You can join for as little as 50p per number and can hold up to 4 numbers. If you would like to know more ring Dawn at the Post Office on 376676 or Maggie on 374758.

The Lottery still provides 3 lucky winners each month. It is a vital fundraiser for your village hall. Are you a member? The more members the more funds for the village Hall and bigger prizes.

Skylarks look forward to a busy schedule

Once again we had a most enjoyable Christmas lunch at St. Andrew's School. The pupils were, as always, polite and charming. The interaction between our members and the children is wonderful and a delight to watch. We thank all concerned at the School for making us so welcome.

We began this year with a "surprise" talk and photographs of New Zealand given by Chris Tanner. What a surprise our members had when suddenly on the slide show, up popped Maureen and Tony Dixey, former



Skylarks members and previous long standing residents of Bulmer. Chris had been out to

see them in their new home in New Zealand so we could all delight in what is a beautiful country but could see old friends also.

We now look forward to our spring meetings when on 24th March Linda Cook from the R.N.L.I. will be with us. April 28th will see us welcoming Len Taphouse with his stories on being a Dockyard apprentice and on 26th May Margo Harrison and her dog Linus will

be with us from the Hearing Dogs Charity.

As usual we will be enjoying our Summer Party on 23rd June with the return of the Stowmarket Strummers. They were so popular when they visited us a few years ago that our members requested their return.

If you are wondering "What goes on in Skylarks" why not come along and find out for yourself, 2 until 4 on the dates given above. Have a cup of tea and cake with us. You will be made very welcome. Gentlemen, don't be shy you will not be alone in the group!

Bulmer Prepares to celebrate V.E. Day Celebrations

V.E. DAY 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS are taking place across the country on a special bank holiday weekend for 2020.



of fish and chips followed by homemade wartime desserts. Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be included

but should you wish you may bring your own drinks and glasses.

Following the lunch, Ashley Cooper will be giving a short talk with special reference to those from Bulmer who were involved in the conflict. Music will then be provided to include a 1940's sing-a-long with Bulmer Choir.

If you wish please dress in 1940's dress but obviously this is not compulsory but encouraged. A raffle will be held, the proceeds going to

Help for Heroes.

Tickets can be obtained by contacting Liz on 269935 or Maggie on 374758 for a price of £10 adult, £5 children up to 10 years of age. The closing date for tickets is 22nd April so please book early to avoid disappointment. We look forward to seeing you there.

UPDATE: Unfortunately due to the Corona Virus crisis the V.E. Day celebrations planned for the 10th May have been postponed. It is hoped that the celebration will be held at a later date. Thank you all for your support and we hope to see you as soon as we can. We hope you all keep healthy over the next few months.

We all owe a great deal to our brave men and women who fought for our future in the Second World War.

St Andrew's Church, Village Hall and the Parish Council invite you to come and celebrate the 75th anniversary of V.E. day.

A 1940's lunch will be held in the Village Hall on Sunday 10th May at 12.45 following the service at St Andrew's Church. The lunch will consist

A new volunteer editor gets to grips with What's Going On?

You may have noticed a few changes in this issue of your local village newsletter. A new editor has taken the reigns of Whats Going on?

After many years of hard work, the previous editor has stepped aside and left some very large shoes to fill. The search was launched for a new volunteer to spend some time gathering the village news and gossip and bring it to you with a bit of a face lift. The search turned out to be a short one, when one of the new members of Bulmer village hall committee, suggested her husband Paul might like to have a go. She did not really expect him to say yes. But agree I did and I find myself with another challenge on my hands.

So allow me to introduce myself.

I have lived in the village for a mere 5 years, having grown up in Colchester. Bulmer has somehow become my inevitable home. As the son in law of the locally famous Rob and Dee Wright, I have been coming here much longer. I was married in Bulmer church in 2004 and my children attended Bulmer St Andrews school since 2012. It was only fitting that I moved here sooner or later.

My profession as a 999 call handler for Essex Police has taught me the importance of community to keep each other safe. So I am keen to get involved in this publication as a way of helping bring the community together. I know how hard it is to get involved in village life if you are new to the area, so I would like to invite all

residents in the area to get in touch. Do you have a story to tell, a point of view to share? Then get in touch with me at

[whatsonbulmer](mailto:whatsonbulmer@gmail.com)

[@gmail.com](mailto:whatsonbulmer@gmail.com) to allow this publication to be your voice. I look forward to hearing from you.

Paul Banks EDITOR



'God I miss Brexit!'

VILLAGE MUTTERINGS

PSSST!!



Well how are we doing folks? I'm OK, but for how long I don't know. How many times have I washed my hands today, I've lost count, onwards and upwards as they say.

Which part of Bulmer is being dug up this week? Well I suppose it will be all good news eventually when we get super-duper broadband. I hear we will have two, yes two services in the village offering their services.

I hear the application for those 7 houses in Church Road has been refused, thank goodness our wildlife is safe. Other good news is 3 residents have been co-opted onto our Parish Council, this almost brings us to a full complement, just one more resident needs to step forward, could it be you?

Seems like I won't be wandering much in the near future, so all keep safe and take care. Don't forget if you need help with shopping or collecting prescriptions etc., our wonderful Bulmer Support Group of volunteers are there to help us through these extraordinary times. You will find their contact details in this newsletter, keep it handy for future use.

A village mutterer



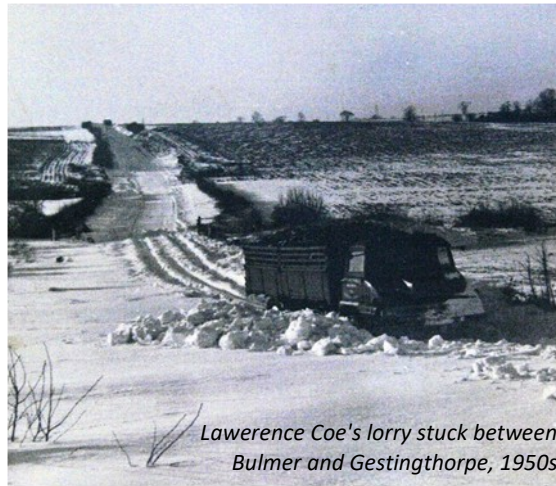
NATURE DIARY

Peter Rowe



As I write this, we are getting to the end of February and as far as I know not a flake of snow has fallen in Bulmer this winter. So, in what is still the unlikely event of us not seeing any snow this year, I thought I should recall some of the hard winters of the past, in

case you forget what that white stuff looks like! (well I was almost right!) The first really snow-bound winter I can recall was 1947. I was in the infants class at the old Bulmer School, which stood just to the south-east of the church on the edge of School Meadow, now Church Meadow and under the wing of Miss Hunter the Infant Teacher. Upper Houses where we lived, was cut off from the Street for a couple of weeks. The walk to school was a great adventure, There were huge ice bubbles to jump on and smash, at times deeper than the top of my wellies, super slides where the wind had blown the snow off the icy road and then towering snowdrifts to tunnel into. Added to the



Lawrence Coe's lorry stuck between Bulmer and Gestingthorpe, 1950s

snow was the intense cold. The school milk rations froze up every day, and our 1/3 pt. milk bottles were thawed out



Views around Upper Houses 1963

around the "slow but sure" coke fuelled Tortoise Stove, our classroom heater. The big freeze went on well into

March, but when the thaw came, it came with a vengeance. A really warm airstream accompanied by heavy rain, speedily saw off the snow, but with the ground still frozen, the water could only run straight off the top of the fields and there

were floods everywhere. Upper Houses was cut off from Bulmer Street by a broad ribbon of brown swirling water, which snaked its way along the little valley towards Lower Houses, where the two cottages beside the road were flooded. I remember setting out for school, and much to my delight having to turn back when faced by that muddy torrent. Ballydon Street was also flooded and with practically all workers either walking or biking to their workplace, a lorry was ferrying them in and out of Sudbury. The next big snow up I recall was about 1955 or 1956, not so long lasting, but a really heavy snowfall. Upper Houses was cut off again, but Ken Day decided he could clear a



way through by charging the drifts at speed with his International tractor. After much charging and reversing, he succeeded in his mission, it was great fun----- I should know I was sitting on the mudguard all the time, no tractor cabs in that time of course, health and safety? --- well never mind.

Moving on, the 1963 winter was almost a match for 1947. Of course all outside work was halted by the severe frost and I,



The Upper Houses milk delivery by Caroline & Wendy, 1982

threw back its head time after time, obviously calling, although of course I couldn't hear it. About five minutes later, it was still there on its own, still calling. However its persistence paid off because a couple of minutes later it was joined by another one, presumably its mate. We quite often have a couple of carrion crows on the back field, but a few days before I saw the buzzards there was just a lone crow. To my surprise a heron flew in and landed a few yards from it and then strolled slowly past the crow, going quite close as it passed. Strangely neither bird seemed to pay any heed of the other. A barn owl, or maybe owls have been seen by many people in the village of late. Even I

saw one, sitting on a stump in the hedge half way between Finch Hill and the crossroads Tina from Vicars Orchard showed me a nice little video clip she took of one in Smeetham Hall Lane, it had just caught a small rodent and lifted off with We have hardly any catkins on our hazel this year, you can literally

count them on the fingers of one hand. This follows an autumn when it was incredibly heavily laden with nuts. I think the tree must have completely exhausted itself in producing the bumper crop and is having a year off. A heavy crop of seeds

nuts or berries can sometimes be an omen that the tree is sickly or on the way out. Certainly it is the case with elm trees, on several occasions in the past I have noticed that if an elm tree flowers and seeds heavily in the spring, as sure as eggs the effects of Dutch elm disease would become apparent in the tree later that year.

Everyone loves to see a kingfisher, something special no matter how many times you have seen one before. This one perched in front of the hide at Lackford Lakes, a popular spot for people to go to see them.



Years ago a young lad worked for us. We were working close to a small stream in Gestingthorpe, I suddenly spotted a kingfisher perched in the hedge ---- "Look Darren a kingfisher!" ---- "What, that little bird ?, it's been there all morning", came the disinterested reply. Well *nearly* everyone loves to see a kingfisher!



Views around Upper Houses 1963

in common with the majority of building trade workers was "stood off" and went on the "dole". It was about mid-March before it warmed up enough for outside work to restart. To get back up to date, the old saying "February fill dyke black or white" has certainly lived up to its name this year, with ditches full to brimming and the fields heavily waterlogged, definitely black, not white.

A brown blob in a distant field, which I expected to be a hare, turned out to be a buzzard, when viewed through the 'scope. As I watched, it

HYPERFAST BROADBAND DRAWS CLOSER

Local residents will not have failed to encounter the occasional diversion as roads have been closed for a short time as the 21st century creeps closer to our villages.

In a recent letter the local residents County Broadband have given an update.

"We will be aiming to gradually increase our contractor's presence in the area as we continue to progress building our network. We anticipate that these works will be completed by June as per our current plan."

Aware of the necessary disruption the company writes: "We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you in advance for your patience and understanding." There is still time to sign up for the service:

"If you would like some further information on how to get connected to our Hyperfast broadband network, please call our Hyperfast services team on 01376 562 002.

Thanks once again for supporting this project, we're very excited to be helping your village get #futureready with Hyperfast broadband from County Broadband."

Joke Corner

What do rubbish collectors like to eat?

Junk Food!

How did the French fries get engaged?

With an onion ring

Where do alien fish come from?

Trouter Space



Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council

<https://www.essexinfo.net/bulmer>

Minutes of the Bulmer Parish Council Extra Ordinary Full Council meeting held on Thursday 17th February 2020 at Bulmer Village Hall at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr R. Raymond (Chairman), Cllr M. Crome, Cllr E. Penn, Cllr D. Finch, Cllr A Crawshay & Cllr C Street. Shelley Boydell (Clerk). Also, present were approx. 5 members of the Public

All meetings are bi-monthly, normally held on the third Monday of the month in the Village Hall at 7:45pm except the AGM starts 7:15pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend and there is a 15 minute slot for statements/questions from the floor.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Annual Parish Meeting
20th April 2020

Parish Council Meeting/
AGM
18th May 2020 (7:15pm start)

Parish Council Meeting
29th July 2020

Parish Council Meeting
21st September 2020

Parish Council Meeting
6th November 2020

134/2020 Chairman Welcome – Introduces new locum clerk following previous clerk's resignation.

135/2020 Apologies for Absence – Cllr W Scattergood

136/2020 Declaration of Interest - Cllr. M Crome regarding item 145 (Allotments)

137/2020 To approve the Minutes of the last meeting of Bulmer Parish Council Parish Council meeting minutes 30th January 2020 – approved and signed

138/2020 Public Participation

County Broadband Complaints regarding putting up poles instead of underground as agreed and as Gigaclear has done – discussed further in item 146.

Flood in Ryes Lane PC agrees to alert Highways

139/2020 Strategic Lorry Route

Cllr E Penn attended a meeting regarding this matter and both Halstead Town Council and Sudbury Town Council are also keen to get the lorry route moved and aim to set up a meeting with D Finch and Suffolk County Council to discuss further. PC agrees to support.

140/2020 V/E Commemoration 8/10th May 2020-03-10

The Village Hall Committee has met with representatives from the Church and the plan is after Sunday Church Service there will be a lunch of fish and chips at 1pm in the Village Hall. This event will be limited to 100 residents or supporters of the village at £10 per ticket (to include food). There will be a talk by Ashley Cooper and also entertainment. A raffle will be held with proceeds to Help for Heroes. PC agrees to help with costs of flyers, printing and providing memorabilia coins to present to attendees.

141/2020 Essex County Councillor's Report – Cllr D Finch

Parish Update will be uploaded to the website and available on request.

142/2020 District Councillors Report – Cllr W Scattergood

Cllr W Scattergood gave her apologies

143/2020 Chairman's report and any update since last meeting

County Broadband and Gigaclear already discussed. Flooding reported. Three applicants received for new councillor vacancies.

144/2020 Co-option of New Parish Councillor

The Parish Council co-opt Christine Street & Antonia Crawshay.

145a/2020 Clerks Report

145b/2020 Representative Reports / Parish Upkeep

Village Green – it has been too wet to carry out work near memorial

Plaque / Bench/ Seat Quotation – to start when Coes Meadow Committee is organised.

Minute No.	Subject	Update
127/2020	Road Signs Telephone Box Removal	Clerk is liaising with Highways Clerk contacted BT, who requested exact location, clerk gave information and currently awaiting response.
127/2020	Open Spaces	Clerk has submitted by 31 st Jan 2020.
127/2020	Councillor Vacancy	Clerk is following procedure regarding filling Vacancies.
	UKPN Substation	Clerk contacted solicitors for quotes to carry out necessary paperwork

Replace plywood and 3 signs on the notice board - PC agreed to get this work completed

Allotments - Update Cllr M Crome

- One vacant plot at less than £20 per year
- Contractor agreed to fill in rut left by water pipe
- 5yr agreement for garden plots has been circulated and agreed upon with some minor changes. It is confirmed that allotments are paid for in arrears and garden allotments are paid for in advance. PC to offer all garden allotments a 5 year agreement.

Coes Meadow – Two recent dog attacks and PC advises these need to be reported to the local dog warden. The gate is now locked with a new padlock. Unauthorised parking in front of gates. Complaints of dog waste being put in regular bin. Representative happy to refurbish the two seats and one needs foot supports, costing approx. £140. PC asked to consider “Please do not park in front of gates” and “Put dog waste in bins provided” signs. Also suggested to speak to “What’s On” Editor regarding requesting dogs to be kept on leads.

It is noted that the hard surface on the playground is coming up - Cllr E Penn is looking into quotes for repairs. The surface was originally put on top of concrete to help with sound proofing but this was a number of years ago. PC agrees to put Coes Meadow on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Website Update – new website all under way ready for changing over in March.
Discussions/decisions outside the meeting – rules regarding this were confirmed by clerk.

Planning Councillor / Sub-Committee – clerk confirmed the process

Hiring / Sub-contracting an “odd-job” person – move this to next meeting

146/2020 County Broadband

A request by Wayleve for poles to go across land using BTs current poles.

147/2020 UKPN Substation

Clerk obtained two quotes for contract for UKPN agreement. The quotes were much higher than UKPN had offered to pay so Cllr M Crome to liaise with UKPN and ask for advice on this, then to discuss at next meeting.

148/2020 Planning Applications

No new applications to discuss

149/2020 Finance

Bank balances as at 29th January and 2019/20 Actuals against Budget account

All agreed

Councillors to further discuss Internet Banking once new councillors are appointed -

PC agreed to add two new signatories onto the account, Chairman agreed to obtain the required mandate ready to sign at next meeting

Clerk Vacancy – update current situation

Two applications for the post, PC agreed to extend closing date to 16th March 2020, clerk to arrange Locum clerk for next meeting and to cover until permanent clerk is appointed.

Change address for The Public Sector Deposit Fund (PC sign letter to post)

Address to be changed once permanent clerk is appointed

150/2020 Items for Next Agenda – 16th March 2020

Co-option of new councillor.

Hiring / subcontracting an “odd job” person

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:52 and thanked everyone for attending.

Bulmer gets a new website

You may or not know the Parish Council and the Village websites are to close at the end of March 2020, this is due to the host **essexinfo.net** no longer are able to provide a platform free service.

The good news is that an alternative provider is available, currently without any platform costs. As a result the sites have had to be transferred to the new provider **e-voice.org.uk**.

The opportunity has been taken to combine both signs in to one. Currently until the end of March if you use the **essexinfo.net** address to access either site you will automatically be redirected to the new site. After March you will have to use the new address **e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc**

On this site there is an opportunity for you to be become a member of the site which will enable you to automatically receive notification of when important information is updated, such as Road Closures, Planning Applications and Village Events are updated

Any feedback on the new site is welcome.

Bulmer Parish Council

Notice Board



Garden waste collections are suspended until further notice

Due to the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19) we have made the decision to suspend garden waste collections for the foreseeable future. We have taken this decision so we can focus resources on collecting essential grey bins, food waste bins and recycling sacks from households, as well as glass bottles and jars from bring bank sites.. The collection of all other recycling and rubbish materials including flats and assisted collections are currently unaffected.

Please also note the refuse centre at Ballydon/Sudbury is now closed until further notice.

Bulmer Village hall Spirit and liquor tasting event planned for the 8th April has been cancelled due to Covid 19.

Any tickets already sold will be fully refunded . The organisers will be contacting ticket holders soon please be patient.

The event will be planned again for later in the year.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Due to the outbreak of coronavirus, please note all future meetings are postponed until further notice. You can still contact the council via bulmerparishclerk@gmail.com or 07801 492312 and for the latest news go to

e-voice.org.uk/bulmerpc

The Council would like to thank those residents who have volunteered to provide support for the vulnerable residents of Bulmer, THANK YOU.

Finally, thank **you** for your co-operation with these issues, and the Council wish all our residents well and ask them to continue adhering to Government advice.

Bulmer Parish Council.

SOCIAL GATHERINGS AND EVENTS MAY BE POSPONED OR CANCELLED

Some details included in this publication are subject to change or cancellation due to the continued uncertainty around social distancing and Isolation advice from the government. Please check with the event organiser before attending any planned events or activities.

POLITE NOTICE TO USERS OF COE'S MEADOW

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

Please note following government instructions the play & fitness equipment on Coe's Meadow is **not** to be used until further notice in order to prevent the spread of the virus, this is to protect us all and in particular the vulnerable residents of Bulmer in spreading the virus.

The Parish Council respectfully requests the following issues are avoided for other users of Coe's Meadow in order the recreation area remains safe for all users;

The litter bins are **not to be used for dog waste**, there are dog waste bins provided at the entrance from Bulmer St. and Vicars Orchard. By using the litter bins it makes an unpleasant hazard for the volunteers who kindly volunteer to empty them.

Parking in front of the gates (locked during winter months) should be avoided. By doing so makes it difficult for emergency vehicles access to the field in the event of an emergency.

The council would appreciate that all dog users have their dogs kept on a lead whilst walking in the area. This avoids any issues with other users who are not dog owners.

Bulmer Parish Council.

Bulmer Support Group

A support group has been set up in Bulmer/Bulmer Tye to provide help and support in these uncertain times. All houses should have received a card through the door giving contact details of your primary contact, however, all of our volunteers are available should you need to contact them. We are also linking in with the Bulmer Parish Church team.

If you need any help if you are vulnerable, self-isolating or poorly please contact one of our volunteers below. We can help with shopping, dog-walking, collecting prescriptions, delivering post - or you tell us what support you need. Our volunteer list with telephone numbers:

Anna Grehan	No Number
Binnie Segrott	01787 828955/ 07779 590587
Chris Street	01787 827428
Denise Vicos	01787 311356
Emma Banks	01787 581665/07908 677776
Jude Johnson	01787 827428/07703 353259
Mary McIntosh	01787 371992/ 07443 474903
Mirabel Smith	07944 909688
Chris Massey	07464784284
Rev Gill Morgan	01787 584993