



June 2020

Roundabout

Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves

Roundabout is delivered free to every address in the parish

Editorial policy

Roundabout aims to promote local events, groups and businesses and to keep everyone informed of anything that affects our community. We avoid lending support (in the form of articles) to any social, political or religious causes, and we reserve the right to amend or omit any items submitted. The final decision rests with the editors.

While *Roundabout* is supported by Woodhouse Parish Council, we rely on advertisements to pay production costs, and we accept advertisements for local businesses as well as those that publicise charitable and fund-raising events. Brief notification of events in the 'What's on' schedule is free.

Copyright in any articles published is negotiable but normally rests with *Roundabout*. We apologise for any errors that might occur during production and will try to make amends in the following issue.

Roundabout needs your input. For guidelines on submission, please see inside the back cover.

Management and production

Roundabout is managed on behalf of the community and published by the Editorial and Production Team comprising Janine Ainscow, Roger Berkeley, Jill Craig, Audrey Davidenkoff, Amanda Garland, Andrew Garland, Grahame Sibson and Andy Thomson.

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Distribution: *Roundabout* is delivered by volunteers to every address within the parish boundary – just under 1,000 households and businesses, including all the surrounding farms. Please let us know if any house or business in Woodhouse Parish is not receiving *Roundabout*, or if you can help out with deliveries.

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Deadline for submissions to the July/August 2020 issue:

Wednesday, 10th June

Email to roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk

or to a member of the editorial team

Editor for July/August 2020 issue: Jill Craig

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Editor's note

The past month (which, as I write, is mid-April to mid-May) has been almost surreal. Like many other households we have settled into a 'stay at home' routine and every day we are grateful for living where we do: for the beautiful surroundings, the wealth of amenities, and most of all the sense of community. This almost seems in stark contrast to the images we see on the news: being trapped in a more urban environment, the distress of people who are ill and heart-breaking stories of those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19.

In these unusual times people are coming up with new ways to help support one another and keep in touch with each other. The Woodhouse Eaves Scout Group has continued with Scouting activities, using phone and computer technology to keep in touch (see p. 23). On VE Day there were celebrations where communities arranged to commemorate 75 years since the end of World War II in Europe. These celebrations were enjoyed at a safe distance from neighbours – always mindful of protecting friends and neighbours from the potential risk of infection with COVID-19 (p. 21).

While it would be lovely to see family and friends again and return to a 'normal' life, it is more important to keep those around us safe and to focus on being happy with life as it is. So relax and read on, and most importantly, stay healthy in mind and body.

Janine Ainscow

Parish council news

Woodhouse Parish Council annual report

Clerk to the parish council

In October, Emma Crowe took over as Clerk to the parish council after Dr Ann Irving stepped down from the role after 14 years' service. I would like to take this opportunity to give my warmest thanks for all the hard work and help Ann has given to the council over the years. We wish her well in her retirement.

Parish office

This past year also saw the opening of the new parish office, which is accessible from the foyer of the village hall, providing a fantastic new home for the parish Clerk and Premises Manager to work from.

Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves Neighbourhood Plan

The Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves Neighbourhood Plan advisory

group has been meeting over the past year. Following two initial consultations with the community and stakeholders the plan is now reaching a draft format that will go out for a community consultation later this year.

Good Neighbour Scheme

The Good Neighbour Scheme held its third Annual General Meeting in October, having carried out 1,009 jobs. In October they won the Rural Service category award for 2019; in November they won the Volunteer-led Organisation of the Year in the Voluntary Action for Leicester and Leicestershire (VALL) 2019 awards, and they were awarded the Overall Charity of the Year – what an outstanding achievement. In January they launched the Community Wheelchair scheme, which offers short-term loan of wheelchairs to people in Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves.

Average speed camera trial

The average speed camera trial was due to end in January 2020. Some 238 drivers were caught speeding on Beacon Road during the trial. The council is looking forward to receiving feedback from Leicestershire County Council about the success of the scheme and whether the cameras will remain.

Armed Forces Covenant

In January the parish council showed their commitment to supporting the military personnel community by signing the Armed Forces Covenant.

Proposed cycle track

The council has received donations from the Woodhouse Eaves Horticultural and Craft Show and McCarthy & Stone for Sustrans to compile a feasibility report for a proposed cycle track between Woodhouse, Woodhouse Eaves and Quorn.

Village pump garden

The council is very grateful to Linda Winston and Jo Poultney for volunteering to look after the village pump garden. The late Ken Funnell was a very hard act to follow, but the delightful spring display of miniature daffodils, hellebores and primulas looked beautiful.

Butterfly border

The parish Tree and Heritage wardens have been organising the planting of numerous plants, which will be native species chosen for their value to invertebrates, especially butterflies, creating a 'butterfly border'. The border is along the path leading from Main Street to Woodhouse Eaves playing field, adjacent to the play park.

King George's Field Charity

New community building

The Woodhouse Parish Council have agreed to replace the Village Hall Annexe with a new community building designed to benefit youth groups and sports in the parish. The council hopes to work with local groups including the Woodhouse Eaves Scout Group to ensure the parish youth see maximum benefit.

Premises manager and handyman

Gordon Watson, the parish council Premises Manager, has settled into his role and takes great pride in providing a great service to all the village hall users. He is effectively managing five buildings, including the extensive grounds, while successfully overseeing the maintenance that this entails. The parish council welcomes the new Handyman, Phil Smith, who is assisting Gordon with ongoing repairs and maintenance. Frances Goodwin decided to retire from her role as Premises Assistant at the beginning of the year. The council is sad to lose her and thanks her for her hard work in looking after the halls over the years.

Field drain

For many years the sports field has suffered from waterlogging, which will hopefully have been significantly improved with the installation of a new field drain at the top of the playing field.

Caretaker's House

Work has commenced on the renovations required to update and modernise the Caretaker's House. The council hopes to let out the home later this year.

Thank you

All the council members who have served the community in 2019-2020 are thanked for their commitment. We also thank all the volunteers who help the council to do its work; and all the local businesses and contractors who support community activities, particularly a special thank you to everyone who is helping our community during this difficult time.

Peter Searancke, Chair 2019-2020

Woodhouse Parish Council financial report 2020

Income and expenditure at year end 31st March for Woodhouse Parish Council and the King George V Charity remains on budget, but combined spending is almost £17,000 more than income.

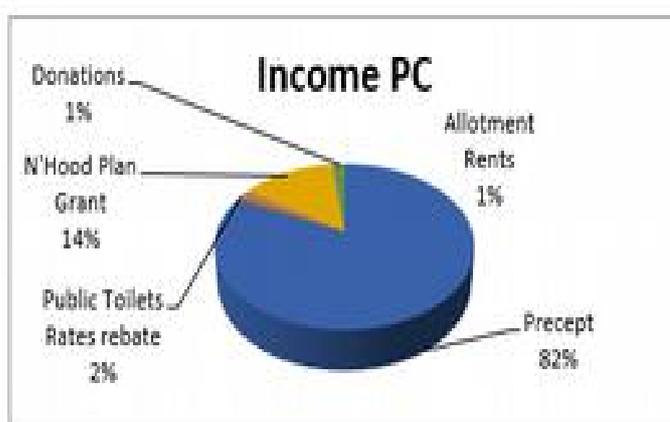
It is recommended to keep at least 75 per cent of running costs as cash reserves and so effort will be made this year to curb spending and apply for grants for future projects to boost income.

The Neighbourhood Plan has been an important project for the village this year and has been totally grant funded to date.

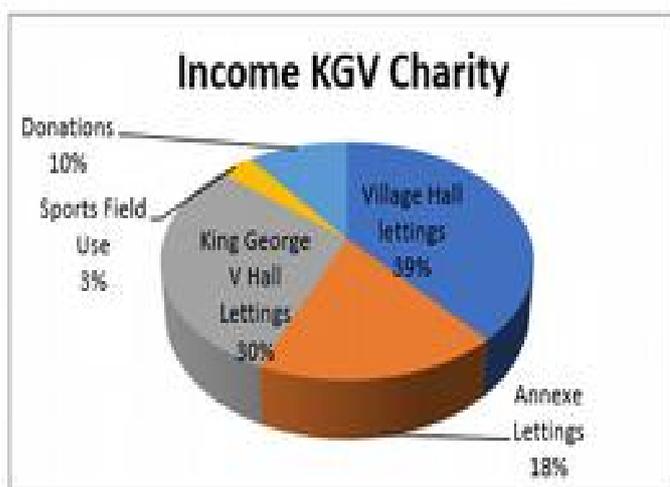
The three halls continue to be well used by local people, including art groups, fitness sessions, youth activities and community meetings.

However, as running costs increase for the maintenance and improvements of the buildings and the outdoor environment, the parish council fund the substantial shortfall.

<u>Income PC</u>	<u>As at YE 31st</u>	
	<u>March 2020</u>	
Precept	79900	82%
Public Toilets Rates rebate	1530	2%
Allotment Rents	640	1%
N'Hood Plan Grant	13400	14%
Misc	430	0%
Donations	1350	1%
Total	97250	



<u>Income KGV</u>		
Village Hall Lettings	18600	39%
Annexe Lettings	8600	18%
King George V Hall Lettings	14300	30%
Sports Field Use	1700	4%
Donations	5000	10%
Total	48200	



Combined income = £145,450

Breakdown of parish council income.

Emily Rowley, Responsible Financial Officer

Council Contact Telephone: (01509) 891 299

Email: clerk@woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk



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News in brief

Information from Charnwood Borough Council

Gesture of good will

Garden waste customers across Charnwood Borough are being offered £5.00 off their next subscription as a gesture of good will. Charnwood Borough Council are offering the reduction after collections were disrupted because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Any Charnwood resident who has an active garden waste bin subscription in April 2020 will receive a £5.00 discount on their next subscription. The discount will be applied automatically for people who pay by direct debit when their subscription is due for renewal. People who pay by invoice will see the discount included. For further information visit www.charnwood.gov.uk/gw_gesture

Bulky waste collections

Residents are again able to book bulky waste collections. Charnwood Borough Council is resuming this service after it was suspended due to staff shortages caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

A limited number of bookings will be taken each week to ensure the Council's waste partners Serco can continue to focus resources on refuse, recycling and garden waste collections.

Bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis and residents can book collections on the Council's website or by calling (01509) 634 563. The Council would like to thank residents for their patience and continued support of its refuse crews. For more information about bulky waste collections please visit www.charnwood.gov.uk/special_collections

National Lottery support

I have received information about Charnwood Forest being awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund Grant of £2,767,300. This unique landscape is one of the most significant in the East Midlands, but very few people are aware of its value, both locally and internationally. The landscape is currently at risk and this grant will support new projects to protect and enhance it.

The grant will fund the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme. This five year scheme will promote awareness and understanding of the importance of Charnwood Forest through geological conservation, habitat restoration, improvements to connections between sites for visitors, creating

innovative interpretation, outdoor learning opportunities for young people and adults and a five-year programme of cultural and heritage activities and events. More information is available about this award on the Charnwood Borough Council's website.

Cllr David Snartt

PCC pledges funding to support refugees during COVID-19 crisis

A charity providing vital support to asylum seekers, vulnerable refugees and wider community members in Leicestershire has received an emergency grant from the county's Police and Crime Commissioner to expand its work amid the coronavirus crisis.

Lord Willy Bach has agreed a £10,000 grant to The Race Equality Centre in Leicester and Leicestershire (TREC) to enable the organisation to deliver food parcels, toiletries and other support to its vulnerable service users during the Covid-19 outbreak.

This grant will enable TREC to deliver essential supplies including 30 emergency parcels per week, rising to 60-90 food parcels, for the next four to eight weeks. The parcels will include food, toiletries, baby food, nappy wipes, gloves and hand sanitisers.

It comes as costs for essential items have risen during the crisis, making it more difficult for new claimants and other vulnerable people to live within their weekly allowance.

Additionally, the funding will cover the costs of new telephone sim cards to enable service users to keep in contact with family and support organisations and a new E-Bulletin providing details and updates on TREC's services throughout COVID-19 as well as vital information and access to support organisations to keep people safe.

Since the crisis escalated, the PCC has already pledged support to Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland and charity E2 to provide emergency food parcels and launch other vital support measures.

'Many people are facing desperate situations in the current crisis and I'm determined nobody is left behind,' said Willy Bach. 'I will do everything possible to ensure those who need help receive it and that together we ease their stress and panic with information, practical help and above all, kindness.'

Sallie Blair

New 24 hour local NHS phone line for urgent mental health needs

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) has launched a dedicated phone line (0116) 295 3060* where people of all ages in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland can access NHS mental health support when they need it urgently.

The new mental health central access point phone service links callers with call handlers and clinicians who can assess their needs and advise, support, signpost or refer them directly to the appropriate service.

The (0116) 295 3060 service* offers people with urgent mental health needs a local alternative to NHS 111, the emergency department and other urgent and non-urgent services.

** The central access point phone service is not an emergency service. Where people have immediate, serious and life-threatening emergency mental and/or physical health needs, they should attend A & E or call 999 for the appropriate emergency service.*

Local call rate. Please refer to phone provider for details of charges.

Information about national, local and online non-urgent mental health support is available on the LPT website www.leicspart.nhs.uk/latest/covid-19-support-for-your-emotional-wellbeing/

Sheila Ashton, Communications Manager

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Good Neighbour Scheme

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered with the Good Neighbour Scheme. Due to the increase in volunteers, we can now help collect and deliver local shopping and prescriptions, chat to people on the phone for companionship and run errands such as post a letter. We may also take people to an emergency medical appointment, if they do not have any symptoms of the virus.

We are so fortunate to have the local shops and businesses, which cover a wide range of support and provisions – from essentials to those extra treats. We have the pharmacy and post office, as well as the opportunity to buy fresh fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, bread and cakes and all the staples and so much more, including cooked meals and food boxes, newspapers and magazines. Whenever I describe our local provision to friends and family, they are stunned at both the range and the quality of what is available. In addition, the good humour and generosity of all the shopkeepers and businesses as they work so hard to support us, is very much appreciated. This is demonstrated partly through the 8.00pm Thursday evening, ‘Clap for Carers’ when we show our thanks both locally and nationally. The sound travels around our parish, almost like a Mexican wave.

We are very aware that many of you are being supported through your friends and families locally and through other informal networks. If every person living in the parish knows there is someone they can turn to, that is what matters. This pulling together of the community, once again, shows what a great place we live in.

Lastly and most importantly, if you think you know of anyone who may need help, please contact the Good Neighbour Scheme on 07561 890 100. We may be able to help, but if not, we will be able to give information on other agencies.

Miranda Brookes

Junior Garden Club continues

Members of the Junior Garden Club continue to keep in contact via the WhatsApp group. The broad bean seeds that were planted in toilet roll tubes at the end of March have now germinated, grown into seedlings, been hardened off and planted into gardens to be taken care of at home. The original plan had been to plant them in the allotment, but the children have not been deterred and have planted them at home instead.



Luke and Mark with earthed up potatoes and broad beans.

The potatoes that were planted in bags at around the same time as the broad beans have been growing nicely. Some of them took a little longer to show their first leaves than others, but many are now grown enough that they need to be earthed up and encouraged to grow even more. The group members have been sharing photos of their progress with potatoes and other plants via WhatsApp so we can see what everyone is doing.

In addition, the young gardeners have planted tomato seeds, pumpkins, radishes, spring onions and a particularly enthusiastic runner bean, which has grown so tall it is endeavouring to escape out of the kitchen window! It has been lovely for the group to hear stories about how they are keeping their green fingers occupied even though it is not yet possible to do so together.

Amanda Garland

Helping families of keyworkers

Jo Pole, owner of the Woodhouse Eaves business Dazzlers and several members of staff who are currently furloughed, decided to help families of keyworkers by making packed lunches for their children to take to school. In preparation, they took a food hygiene course and purchased a supply of gloves and facemasks. The



Donations of packed lunch items.



Children of keyworkers at Beacon Academy with their packed lunches.



Oscar helping to deliver lunches.

initiative is supported by donations from local businesses and individuals who supply ingredients to make the lunches. These are delivered to local schools, ready for lunchtime. The help has been met with much appreciation at a difficult time.

Editor

Virtual quizzing

During these times when we cannot get together socially, residents of Victoria Road came together virtually for an evening of quiz fun. The quiz was in aid of the Trussel Trust and neighbours gave a donation to join the evening. Five rounds gave everyone something to think about as they tried to win a bottle of home-made damson gin! The evening was so enjoyable it was repeated two weeks later – with different questions of course. An outstanding total of £390 was raised for this very worthwhile food bank charity.

Gemma Andrews

Happy pebbles

Cheerful painted stones and pebbles can be spotted around the parish, spreading a little cheer to passers-by.



Editor

A cheerfully decorated pebble.

Go wild this June

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust would love you to join them in doing something wild for every day of June in their annual nature challenge – 30 Days Wild. This is a fun, feel-good challenge run by the Wildlife Trusts every June; it brings people closer to nature where they live, taking small actions that can collectively have a big impact. From little things such as watching a bee from your window or feeding the birds, to giving up single-use plastics for a month or digging a pond in your garden: every random act of wildness counts.

While nature needs us more than ever, the reverse is also true. We are all part of nature and it should be a part of our lives. Over the past five years, the Wildlife Trusts have been working with the University of Derby to find out about the impact that 30 Days Wild has on participants. The results show that people feel happier and healthier after taking part for months afterwards.

See Forthcoming events for more information and how to sign up.

Harriet Hickin

The Woodhouse Agora/News

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Good news for Charnwood

We all know that Charnwood, and of course Woodhouse Parish in particular, is a special place. There are hills, rocks, fields and woods, oak trees, dry stone walls... I could go on. I like to think of it as a mini Peak District, but actually, in many ways it's even more special than that. I still remember watching a new David Attenborough series some 15 years ago, where I was gobsmacked to see him at the very start standing on top of Beacon Hill, talking about the ancient rocks and the Charnia fossil, which changed our views of when life started on earth.

So, I'm very pleased to report that Charnwood Forest has just been awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £2.8M to support new projects to protect and enhance the landscape. This is supported by £1M of matched funds for a total project of almost £4M.

The five year project is called the Charnwood Forest Landscape Partnership Scheme. It will support more than 80 sites across Charnwood Forest and enable over 1,000 volunteers to learn about and help protect this precious landscape. Specific projects will include:

Geological conservation and research

1. Innovative interpretation
2. Habitat restoration
3. 15 natural flood management projects
4. 10km of improvements to Rights of Way and the creation of a safer, off-road path between Beacon Hill and the Outwoods
5. Heritage and health programmes, in particular for those with access and special health needs
6. Roadshows, events and Citizen Science projects involving 10,000 people
7. 1,250 volunteering opportunities
8. Participatory arts programmes to engage people to record and celebrate Charnwood
9. Outdoor learning
10. Improved visitor information
11. Mapping of Charnwood's distinctive stone walls
12. Advice and support for farmers and landowners, small businesses, and community organisations through training programmes and grant schemes

Charnwood Forest's rocky outcrops, some of the oldest rocks on the planet, were thrown up by volcanic activity in the southern oceans more than 600 million years ago. Millions of years of global plate tectonic movements brought the Charnwood rocks to their current location, and with them the fossilised remains of the first moments of complex life on earth. These fossils are only found in a handful of places across the globe, and the most ancient are found in only two places on Earth: Newfoundland in Canada and Charnwood Forest in Leicestershire. Roadshows, events, outdoor activities and Citizen Science projects will enable 10,000 people to explore this incredible history.

Yet the area is not just important for its fossils. The ancient volcanic geology created the steep, rocky ground and thin soils that are characteristic of Charnwood. These are conditions that make arable farming difficult, so historically much of the area was grazed or left as woodland. As the land has not been heavily cultivated, it still contains a wealth of nationally and internationally important wildlife, including the Charnwood Spider and rare lichens.

Working together to protect this unique landscape is now more important than ever as we mitigate and adapt to climate change. Charnwood is a hidden gem in the East Midlands and this award will help ensure that its unique story and character are celebrated and secured for the future.

So look out for the projects and volunteering opportunities coming soon, and be ready to get involved and help protect Charnwood Forest.

Ed de Salis Young

Save your Neighbourhood Watch

The original communication can be read in full at: <https://mailchi.mp/02bf9b6a78a3/a-goodbye>

In October 2018, it was announced that the Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves Neighbourhood Watch activities would reduce to a bare minimum until more people became involved. Since then we have had many notes of thanks and encouragement for which we are grateful. We have also improved our communications and increased our numbers of direct contacts. However, no new people have become involved.

During the past 18 months the police have dramatically improved their communications and signing up for alerts directly from the police is highly recommended (links below). It is possible to opt for specialisms or purely items related to Charnwood <https://bit.ly/2LI2bfT> There is a wealth of resources and advice available online <https://bit.ly/3bgH7RT>

The police would like to use additional methods of communication (such as SMS or text alerts). One of the plans had been to add value to communication with villagers by sifting through the police information and occasionally curating the 'best of' advice, rather than re-distributing every single communication.

Sadly, no offers of help have yet come forward and the neighbourhood watch will be ceased at the end of May 2020 – unless anyone steps up to the roles. We do this with regret. We want the service to thrive and let a new era start but that is impossible at the moment.

Can you keep the neighbourhood watch going?

Who is needed?

- 1) A group of people to explore the many new opportunities for a Neighbourhood Watch and select any of importance for our villagers, and give some new ideas 'a try'.
- 2) A smaller group (three to five people) to share the management of the database and proactively manage communication, from social media to email or texts and even on-street notices. If you can use email and Microsoft Office then you can easily adopt the tools we have.

What do you need to do?

Email us on NHW@Skillsapplied.co.uk and nhw@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk as soon as you can. If after this final appeal there are no new volunteers, then the scheme will be mothballed.

Mervyn Greenhalgh and John Owens

The Pear Tree cook-along

The team of Albiniano brothers at the Pear Tree – Riccardo, Gianni and Marco – have come up with several initiatives designed to keep us happy and well-fed until it is safe for pubs to open their doors again. One of the ideas that is proving very popular is the cook-along, where on alternate Thursdays the brothers create a two-course meal live on Facebook.

To join in with a cook-along participants book their boxes of ingredients by telephone. Ingredients are collected (and paid



Riccardo, Gianni and Marco Albiniano at the Pear Tree, ready for a Thursday cook-along.

for) the day before the show. Then simply tune into the Pear Tree's Facebook page at 5.00pm and live-stream the easy-to-follow demonstration by Riccardo, Gianni and Marco.

The brothers are working with local supermarkets, including Waitrose who are donating the produce, and all proceeds (over £4,000 already) go directly to the Leicester NHS charities COVID-19 response unit.

Two cook-along fans tell how it is

'We've enjoyed the cook-alongs: it's a change from our usual routine and makes a connection with the outside world. It has been challenging making dishes that we might not normally try, knowing you have the support of experts on hand. Everything has been delicious – main courses and desserts.'

Sian and Richard Mollart

'The meals have been fabulous – we both love them. As an 'extra' one evening Marco put together a pizza kit and demonstrated how to make the best pizza I have ever made! Thank you, Pear Tree, for a tremendous effort, for giving us a boost to Thursday evenings, and for raising so much money for NHS charities.'

Corrinne and Roger Berkeleyy



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VE Day celebrations

The ongoing coronavirus pandemic and the need for social distancing did not dampen spirits on Friday, 8th May when households around the parish were outside celebrating the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. It was a perfect early summer's day, streets and houses were decorated with flags and bunting, and there was the sound of music from the 1940s. At 4.00pm the real partying started as neighbours sat outside their houses enjoying some celebratory refreshments – tea and scones – or something stronger. The selection of photographs sums up the day.



Mowing the lawn with next door a scarecrow of World War II soldier. Almshouses, Woodhouse Eaves. (Photo credit: Michael Regan).



Gemma and Paul Andrews raise a toast to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day.



Celebrating VE Day, streets were lined with flags, balloons and bunting.

Editor



Winston Churchill (John Bindley) made an appearance on Victoria Road.



World War II memorabilia on Victoria Road. (Photo credit: Michael Regan).



Jean, on Victoria Road, was 18 on VE Day and shared her memories of the day with neighbours. (Photo credit: Michael Regan).



Neighbours on Victoria Road chat and play while maintaining their social distance.



deVOL Kitchens

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Scouting news – carrying on during lockdown

Like everything else in this currently strange world, Scouting is considerably impacted by the COVID-19 lockdown. The Government made the call on the afternoon of 23rd March that we all needed to stay home and stay safe, and our District Commissioner Paul quickly made his own calls to all units instructing us to cancel all section meetings until further notice. This came about 90 minutes ahead of our regular Monday evening Scout group meeting, so parents and carers were hurriedly contacted and youngsters stood down.

Virtual Scouting

We all know what's happened since, and as I write on 9th May, the lockdown is still in full force, with some minor relaxations rumoured, but we have no idea when we'll be able to get back to normal, whatever 'normal' will look like in future. Scouting UK has advised that it could be 2021 before we are allowed to meet again as a group.

Some things have had to be cancelled of course. As well as face to face section meetings, we had to cancel our quiz night on 2nd May, but Scouting is continuing, in a number of novel and innovative ways.

Our district has been very pro-active in setting up a number of initiatives. These are, out of necessity, organised online, but we are able to carry on with quite a lot of the 'traditional' stuff too. Sandy, our indefatigable Beaver district leader, organises a bi-weekly family quiz at 7.00pm on Monday and Friday evenings, accessible via the Charnwood District Scouts Facebook page, and there are daily challenges, such as a 'Lego challenge', a 'make a parrot out of a pop bottle challenge', and I notice today's challenge is to create a 'Coronavirus time capsule', to be hidden for future discoverers to see what life in this period was like for us all. We've also had some building and creating challenges, with spaceships, Chinese dragons, and volcanoes taking shape all around.

St George's Day camp

St George's Day was 23rd April, and because we couldn't hold our traditional St George's Day parade, we instead held a virtual camp weekend. Scouts, Cubs and Beavers camped out at home in gardens (or inside), camp fires were lit, 's'mores' were toasted, flags and badges were designed and awarded prizes, everything to make it as authentic as possible, even to the extent of having a lost property box. Virtual camp ended with a Sunday flag break and salute, dedicated to the NHS and key

workers and carers. Over 400 young people from the Charnwood district took part, including 22 from Woodhouse Eaves Scouts.

Hike to the moon

In parallel with the St George's Day events we also took part in the national scouting 'Hike to the Moon' event. Scouts nationwide, along with friends and family, collectively walked more than 240,000 miles (the distance to the Moon) raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for the BBC Children in Need and Comic Relief event. Led by high profile ambassadors (Tim Peake and Bear Grylls), individuals were asked to each walk a mile, while staying safe and sticking within government advice, and were encouraged to make a donation pledge in return for a badge.

Other ad hoc activities have included planting sunflowers and pumpkins; Beaver leader Dayle supplied the seeds and everyone is busy cultivating. There will be prizes for the best efforts at the end of the season. We have



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one Beaver working towards his 'animal friends' badge by helping with a local hedgehog rescue initiative.

VE Day

On 8th May we joined in with the national VE Day celebrations, and the following weekend, 9-10th May, was dedicated to worldwide JOTT (Jamboree on the Trail). In previous years we've taken groups out hiking and this year is the same, only the groups are family groups rather than collectives. Everyone is taking advantage of the beautiful weather to get out there and to post photos of their activities.



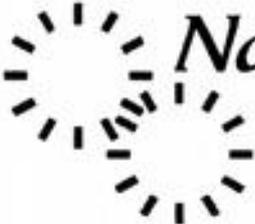
Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

VE Day celebrations.

For the older members working towards their Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) awards there have been some modifications to the DofE programmes under the banner "#DofEWithADifference". Obviously, expeditions can't happen at the moment, but there have been some temporary programme changes to make things a little more feasible. For those approaching the grand old age of 25 (the cut-off age for DofE), the deadline has been relaxed to allow activities to be completed when conditions allow.

So, while you won't see us out and about as a group for some time yet, rest assured that Scouting is alive and well and continuing in the village, the district and the country.

Graham Cameron, Woodhouse Eaves Scout Group



Nomaz (Richard J Bowers DLC CEng so trading)
Applying technology appropriately

Keeping in touch with friends and family

Many of us are using the Internet to keep in touch by text chat, voice or video for free or at very low cost by using WhatsApp, Zoom, Skype or Discord. I am at present offering free* telephone help to get going with one of these.

Local IT support
T: 01509 890114
E: richard@nomaz.co.uk
W: www.nomaz.co.uk

*Free for in-parish residents for a "reasonable" amount of support time. Includes trying to help with hardware or connection issues.

The Watch

Time was, not too long ago, when I could be seen with a pair of binoculars strung around my neck, wandering through the wilds beside a reservoir, along paths through woods and heathland, and peering over walls and fences at the wilds. I was an avid bird-watcher.

Well, I still am. However, the government and COVID-19 between them made a decision to celebrate my birthday by locking me and everybody else in our homes for the duration. No longer could I travel the countryside, go to talks by learned persons, and do all those things I once did. Instead, if I wanted to watch birds, the government rules allowed me to do it in my own back garden. Of course, there are disadvantages to this – not all species of bird find my back garden appealing – and I no longer had the excuse for not doing all those odd jobs that I had ‘put off until tomorrow’.

I suppose there is always television viewing, but as nearly every programme reminds you that you should ‘stay at home to help the NHS’ you may become a little frustrated with life. So, every now and then when my nose is buried in the computer screen, I will stop, stretch, and look out of the window. I have even been known to do some of the many odd jobs in the garden that need doing. For another thing, the television also seems to suggest all the things you could do to keep yourself busy, including reconnecting with nature.

Spot the difference

I will admit that I tend to classify plants either as weeds, which normally flourish under the conditions that exist – the soil type, the temperature, the rainfall and so on – and flowers, which normally do not. Then there are bees, butterflies, beetles, spiders and those annoying things that bite you. I would not pretend to know their names. Birds are a different thing. First, they fly, so they can be seen. Next, many of them have different coloured feathers, which makes them easy to identify, though there are always small brown jobs that complicate matters. Lastly, they come in various shapes and sizes.

The beginner will need a guide book with coloured pictures. A pair of binoculars or a telescope would be useful, but not necessary. Bird food does have the advantage of attracting birds, but it may also attract grey squirrels, which I do not think a good thing. Lastly, you may need a little patience if you are to do the job properly. And practice, practice, practice...

What do birds do?

Like us, they must eat, they must sleep, and they like a little privacy when they are breeding. Many species like faithfulness and males will drive other males away from their mates. Birds eat a variety of foods, and most specialise. Robins, blackbirds and thrushes tend to prefer insects and worms. Chaffinches and sparrows like seeds, while sparrow hawks eat any bird they can catch. Even in these general categories there are specialities. Some insect-eaters live by water, some in woods and others like a back garden. The same goes for seed-eaters. Eagles like large areas of open moor over which to hunt, while sparrow hawks are quite happy with more wooded places.

Where do birds sleep?

When you are asleep you do not want people clumping round disturbing you. With birds it may be a matter of when they sleep. Clearly, they do not want to be found by the local owl, which is nocturnal, so they choose hiding places, and some species sleep in large groups. Television shows starling roosts nearly every winter ...and then there is the pigeon that insists on using the tree over my car.

Their territory

The size of a bird's territory may depend on their food source. Sea-birds range over the sea, often to catch fish, so they can nest close together and require only that their neighbour keeps itself to itself. If they could, blackbirds would build fences – just like us – but they cannot, so they sing. The song is 'keep out! I'm here' to other male blackbirds and 'look what an excellent male blackbird I am' to any passing females (which are brown, not black).

What does not trouble a bird?

One day, years ago, I was watching a whinchat in Bradgate Park.

'She wearing trousers?' asked a stranger at my elbow.

'Uhh' I said, being surprised.

'That's no good,' he said, 'You shouldn't let a park ranger find you doing that.'

Just one hazard. Funny bloke.

Dr D McNeil

Woodhouse Eaves Plastic Free Group

Like many of you we have been marvelling at how loud the bird song is at the moment without the traffic noise and how clean the air feels when out on a walk. Nature, it seems, is enjoying our new normal. A Countryfile photographer spotted Harbour Porpoise in the English Channel from his window. Residents of cities such as Venice are reporting spotting dolphins in canals and wild boar in the streets. It gives us just a glimpse of the fact that if nature is given a chance it will bounce back.

Return to offender

Sadly, some people driving through our village have not become more considerate during lockdown and the litter is starting to show on the grass verges. Not wanting to touch other people's litter makes it hard for those of us who now instinctively pick it up to take to the nearest bin. [Surfers against Sewage](#) are encouraging members of the public to 'Return to Offender' and let the companies who are the worst offenders know that their items are littering our streets. This could be done by taking a picture of the rubbish and using the hashtag #returntooffender on social media or by writing to the company responsible, attaching the picture.

On my walk last weekend takeaway Costa cups seemed to be the worst offender – so I shall be writing to them shortly! Back in 2018 Coca-Cola, Pepsi and Nestlé were found to be the worst plastic polluters by [Greenpeace](#) in global clean-ups and brand audits and their packaging has not improved since. When all of this is over, the Plastic Free Group hopes to join forces with the Litter Picking Group and have a day to tidy up our parish. Check our website for details when gatherings are allowed again. www.wheplasticfree.co.uk/events

Quiz time

For those of you who are home schooling at the moment, or are just interested in testing your knowledge, a quick quiz about plastic is on our website www.wheplasticfree.co.uk/plastic-quiz Twenty questions to see what you know! You might be able to find the answers by having a click around the other pages of the site.

The questions might also give you some ideas on how to change your habits when we are out of lockdown. Ways to avoid single use plastic are now plentiful. Why not take your own containers to Johnsons the butchers? They are happy to serve you products without having to use the plastic bag. The fish wagon will also happily do the same. Many companies are now

delivering fresh fruit and vegetables to our village. They come without packaging and to your door – email if you want some ideas on this (wheplasticfree@hotmail.com). Why not take your own shopping bag to the Spar rather than buying a carrier bag? To the left of the counter there is always a supply of re-usable bags for life or Morsbags made by our group. Or you could try one of the many shops in our area that are zero waste. Take your own container to Elf foods in Loughborough for detergent and shampoo or to Nada in Leicester for pasta, oats and spices to name but a few. Every little helps and leads to less plastic pollution. Planning your ideas now will kick start a more plastic free lifestyle after lockdown.

Gemma Andrews

June in the cottage garden

If May is the month of vibrancy and rapid growth, then June is a time when that growth builds and swells into a crescendo with long days and warm nights when we gardeners can spend time in the garden until well into the evening. While it's lovely to sit on these evenings and watch the light gently fade, for me it's extra time – because there is plenty to do. The vegetable garden needs constant attention with sowing and harvesting, while the borders are always changing and demand re-colouring as flowers fade, with hardy annuals sown earlier in the year.

Keep safe and grow your own

In the vegetable garden, now is the time to plant and sow tender vegetables such as squash, tomatoes, sweet corn and peppers. However, it is to those of you who may not have grown vegetables before, or even any plant before, but feel the need (as do so many of us in these troubled times) to do what we can to provide our own food, that I want to devote the rest of this article.

Growing vegetables really isn't that hard. We've all seen pictures of poker straight prize-winning leeks and huge heavily nurtured squashes and pumpkins, but if the taste is there (and believe me you've never tasted anything so good as produce you've grown yourself) then it really doesn't matter if your leeks are a little small or your carrots are a comical shape. Another misconception about growing vegetables is that you need space - not so, you can grow vegetables even if you only have a small back yard or even no outside space at all, for example in window boxes.

Where to start with vegetables

So let's start you off on the road to feeding your family (or at least giving them a taste of how delicious homegrown food really is). A great one to start with and something that can be repeatedly sown from early spring right through to winter (and beyond in sheltered positions) is lettuce. You can buy seed packets of all sorts of salad leaves, from hot mixes to cut and come again varieties. Easy to sow and quick to germinate they can be sown in compost, or garden soil if you haven't any, in the ground or in any type of container as long as it has drainage holes. Why not accompany them with a crop of radish. The great thing about radish is that they mature quickly so can be planted among slower growing produce and again are easily grown in containers. No good salad is complete without tomatoes. You can buy young plants or they are easily grown from seed. A sunny spot and a good water and feed is all they require. Carrots are a great one for children to try and I think are best grown in containers. Thin out seedlings when they emerge and then pick when the carrots are young, sweet and tender, delicious eaten raw!

Another easy starter are potatoes. It may be a little late to plant salad varieties, but you can still plant main crop potatoes to harvest in early autumn. If you don't have a space in the garden you can buy special growing sacks into which you plant the seed potatoes, topping up with soil/compost as the leaves emerge. If you have a sunny balcony, why not think about planting climbing beans or cucumber? Not only will they provide you with delicious fruit, but they will also have pretty flowers from which the fruit is formed. You can also grow climbing beans in your borders; just give them something to climb up and they will grow happily with the rest of your plants. Other vegetables that can be easily grown in containers and also look attractive are sweet peppers and chillies.

As I write we eagerly await the easing of some of the lockdown restrictions. However, I am sure this next phase will prove even more challenging than that we have just been through, so it is even more important that we harness the healing power of nature and the therapeutic gift that is gardening - and believe me there really is nothing as therapeutic as growing, harvesting and eating your own fruit and vegetables. Happy gardening!

Jo Poultney

How well do you know your village?

This month's pictures for how well do you know your village are a selection of post boxes.

Stella Blay



Picture 1



Picture 2.



Picture 3.



Picture 4.

Forthcoming events

Go WILD with Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust this June!

Find out more and sign up at: www.lrwt.org.uk/30dayswild You will receive a free downloadable pack to plan activities throughout June. Packed full of Random Acts of Wildness, it is just the boost we all need. We've created some bonus items for people working from home and home-schooling.

Codeword

A codeword is like a crossword puzzle, but the letters in the grid have been replaced by numbers. Each number represents a letter of the alphabet and all 26 letters are present. As in any crossword, the words used can include proper nouns and even common phrases. Can you solve the puzzle? We have given you some letters to help you get started. The solution can be found on the back cover. (Andy Thomson).

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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The last word

About 700 grapes go into one bottle of wine. That's approximately 2.6 pounds, if you're wondering how much 'fruit' you get when you uncork your favourite red.

M&M stands for Mars and Murrie

Forrest Mars (son of the Mars Company founder) first spotted the British confection Smarties during the Spanish Civil War and noticed the shell prevented the chocolate from melting. He teamed up with Bruce Murrie (son of Hershey Chocolate's president) and the company later trademarked the 'Melts in Your Mouth, Not in Your Hand' slogan.

#hashtag #octothorpe

The hashtag symbol is technically called an octothorpe. According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the 'octo' prefix refers to the eight points on the symbol, but the 'thorpe' remains a mystery. One theory claims that it comes from the Old English word for 'village,' based on the idea that the symbol looks like a village surrounded by eight fields!

Some cats are allergic to people

FYI for all you people allergic to cats: they might be allergic to you, too! It's pretty uncommon due to the fact that we bathe ourselves more often than other species and don't shed as much hair or dead skin, but yes, it does happen.

The unicorn is the national animal of Scotland

Yes, although it's a fabled creature, the national animal of Scotland is actually the mythical unicorn – chosen because of its association with dominance and chivalry as well as purity and innocence in Celtic mythology.

Four times more people speak English as a second language than as a native one

It's the most widely spoken tongue in the world, with nearly two billion people learning it as a second language and only 350 million people speaking it natively.

The lyrebird can mimic almost any sounds it hears – including chainsaws

Wildlife watchers have recorded the Australian species copying not only other birds but other animals, like koalas, and artificial sounds such as car alarms and camera shutters.

The Crown Jewels contain the two biggest cut diamonds on Earth

They both came from the Cullinan Diamond, a 3,106-carat gem found in South Africa in 1905. The largest stone, called the Great Star of Africa, is in the Sovereign's Sceptre, while the second largest is mounted in the Imperial State Crown.

Contributions to *Roundabout*

We publish items of interest to people living in Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves that accord with our editorial policy (see inside front cover). We do not publish notices of births, deaths or marriages, but can write up people's stories for them if they wish. We aim to keep most articles under 800 words.

Format: electronic copy in 'Word', using 'Arial' font, is preferred, although we accept legible hand-written items. Digital pictures are very welcome.

What's on: brief notification of events in the 'What's on' schedule is free. Send event details to *Roundabout* at the email address below. Please note that we normally include only 'in parish' events, may abbreviate the details and are not obliged to include all items submitted.

Adverts: requests for further publicity, even for charities, incur a charge per issue of £9.50 for a quarter page or £22.00 for a half page. We do not accept full-page adverts. Contact the advertising managers Amanda and Andrew Garland on (01509) 890 839 or via the email address below.

Forthcoming events: organisers of not-for-profit or charity events may submit a maximum of 50 words to publicise a one-off or annual event. We may edit your submission and are not obliged to include all items submitted.

Copy deadline: see page 3.

Please send material to a member of the editorial team or by email to roundabout@woodhouse-eaves.co.uk

The Parish of Woodhouse and Woodhouse Eaves

Dear friends,

As we journey through the CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) we are all in this together and navigating our way through uncharted territory. Understandably there is much worry as this coronavirus potentially spreads and in the event that we do have to move to further social distancing measures and self - isolation, anxiety levels may well increase. As your parish priest I am here to offer worship and spiritual support to individuals and to our whole community so please do phone me if you'd like a chat or a pastoral visit. I will also be setting up a prayer chain so if there is anyone you'd like pray for please let me know or if anyone would like help with picking up any shopping do contact the Woodhouse Angels (Revd Lisa 890 972, Marion Porter 890 801, Sue Harris 07702 567 457, Carol McDermott 07583 522 396)

Please contact Revd Lisa if you need help or any support at this time.

With blessings,

Revd Lisa: 01509 890 972

Email: revdlisatemperley@gmail.com

What's on in June

			See advertising through magazine for details of events held by local businesses.	
			See forthcoming events for free Wildlife Trust event.	

Check for more local event details on these web sites:

www.woodhouse-eaves.co.uk/

www.woodhouseparishcouncil.org.uk/local-events.html

Answers to photo quiz 'How well do you know your village?'

Picture 1: Corner of Main Street and Beacon Road.

Picture 2: Maplewell Road almost opposite Broombriggs footpath.

Picture 3: Brand Hill near Lady Martin Drive.

Picture 4: The Art of Building architects' office on Maplewell Road (old post office).

Codeword Solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
H	Q	I	P	G	U	M	W	E	Z	T	F	L
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	C	R	X	D	V	O	B	S	K	Y	N	A