



# Newton and Biggin Parish Council Village Newsletter

## September 2020

**Thank You** - The Parish Council (PC) would like to thank all the unsung heroes in our community. Whether they be carers on the frontline, bin crews, shelf stackers, delivery drivers or people who have gone that extra mile to take care of neighbours, the elderly and vulnerable people within our community.

The Government has recently announced that as from Monday 14 September, a maximum of 6 people will be allowed to meet together socially. There are some exceptions for Covid-19 secure venues like pubs, restaurants, gyms etc which will be able to hold more than 6 people in total. Newton Village Hall falls under this category. The Parish Council has concluded that the Hall can remain open for bookings providing users observe the government guidelines. This means ensuring that there must not be individual groups larger than 6 and groups must not mix socially or form larger groups during the booking. This is achievable for some users but it probably rules out the use of the Hall for parties etc. The Hall is Covid-19 secure as a result of alterations and enhanced cleaning. It is vital that users respect and maintain this status by adhering to the requirement of the Booking Arrangements.



Please be considerate when parking and driving through the village. Of course Newton developed long before cars, so sometimes it is difficult to park. However, please be considerate and don't obstruct

visibility when you park your car, particularly near to junctions. Also don't forget, there is a maximum of 30 miles per hour speed limit through the village, so do please keep that in mind.

## Welcome

Parish Councils are the most local tier of local government. All of your Councillors live in the community and if there's anything you'd like to see in future newsletters please let us know. We aim to produce it a number of times a year and deliver it to residents. It's also on our website. You can contact the Clerk, the Chair or any of the Councillors. Contact details are on the notice board in the Stag car park or on the website. Access to the website details are at the end of this newsletter.

## Village Hall Refurbishment Update

- New roof - Completed
- Refurbished kitchen and toilets - Completed
- Installation of new projector - Completed
- Redecoration - Completed
- New flooring - Completed
- New curtains - Completed
- Internet provision - Progressing
- New porch and repointing - successfully attracted a Rugby Borough Council Grant and now awaiting planning permission
- The Hall is now open albeit with reduced numbers able to attend and is Covid-19 secure. Enquiries can be made to Mrs Ruth Hughes on 01788 860725.



## **Ellis Gardens Playground**

Although this remains closed, the PC is liaising with Lioncourt to open the site. Eventually the site will be owned by the PC but at present Lioncourt has decided to keep it closed.



## **Welcome News**

Firstly, the fabulous Red Kites increasingly seen in skies over the village.



Secondly, we also has increasing numbers of rescue Hedgehogs which can be seen and heard all over the village.



Both of these lovely and vulnerable creatures are doing well, a credit to all of the people who contribute to their welfare and protection.

## **Not so Welcome News**

There are issues of littering, dog fouling and vandalism. So please pick up litter and your dog poo and dispose of safely. There have been some fires in the Five Arches site, so please report any vandalism to the Police.



**Planters ready for Autumn and Winter**  
Residents and those passing through the village may have noticed two new planters. They have been refreshed by Councillor Anne Davis.

Anne has added some colour to the planters to see them through the Autumn and Winter.

## **Ginny Dowe-Edwards on the TV**

Although absolutely nothing to do with the PC, we couldn't produce a newsletter without acknowledging renowned Newton ceramacist, Virginia Dowe-Edwards and her appearance on the BBC show 'Home is Where the Art Is'. What an achievement! It's a competition, so we won't give the result away. For anyone who has yet to see it, you can catch the show on iPlayer Episode 4. Here are a couple of pictures of presenter Nic Knowles and Ginny and the cameraman Sam filming in Ginny's studio. Go Ginny!





**The Five Arches Wildlife Site** - The PC funds the maintenance and improvement of the site in the interests of both recreation and wildlife. If you've been there recently you'll have seen that a lot of the grassland has been subject to a traditional meadow cut designed to promote wildflower growth next year. More cutting is scheduled over the coming weeks.

Other works which will be carried out soon may look a bit drastic but are essential if the site is to be managed to its full potential and not become overgrown. These include the cutting back of the poorer, spindly trees particularly by the ponds and along the stream to let in more light and improve bio-diversity.



A digger has been in operation in the ponds to scoop out accumulated silt and mud and increase the volume of water. Some dredging will also be carried out in the stream which, along with the construction of a couple of small weirs, will slightly increase its depth. Both the ponds and the stream will then be able to accommodate an increased range of aquatic life.

The PC has bought new bridges and rustic benches for the site and also purchased a couple of wheelchair accessible picnic benches for the picnic area which are in the process of being installed by RBC.

Thank you for everyone who has volunteered to help maintain this important and well used site. If you want to volunteer please contact: [mikeslater1956@outlook.com](mailto:mikeslater1956@outlook.com) at Butterfly Conservation, Warwickshire



**Traffic & Signage** - Fingers crossed, we're nearly there with the 30mph extension on Newton Lane. All of the legal orders have been made and a Warwickshire County Council (WCC) engineer will be on site very soon to mark out the new locations (just before the bend on the north side of the bridge). Then it's over to the contractors to erect the signs.

The HGV signs are a bit more problematic. It seems to be agreed that the 'Unsuitable for HGV'



signs have more of a deterrent effect than weight limits. Drivers may ignore weight limits but will pay more attention to 'Unsuitable' signs for fear of getting stuck. This is a particular issue presently the PC and others are grappling with. Installing such signs at the St Thomas Cross end of the village shouldn't present a great problem as the road is in the jurisdiction of WCC who have already agreed to the principle of the signage.

However, the A5 is a Trunk Road under the control of Highway England who have strict rules on signs. WCC would be prepared to have the signs in Newton Lane but only if there is space to turn an HGV as reversing back onto the A5 can't be allowed. Unfortunately, there isn't such a turning space.

The PC is now exploring options including erecting signs in Newton Lane as close as possible to the A5 or, if all else fails, seeking to persuade Highway England to allow signs on the A5. The PC will continue to post updates when anything changes.

**Defibrillator** - Parish Councillor Anne Davis and PC Clerk Allyson Downes are pictured here replacing the pads on the defibrillator which is kept in a cabinet on the external wall of the Village Hall. This is a potentially life-saving piece of equipment used in the event of a heart attack. The defibrillator is in a pack inside the cabinet and is taken to the patient. Clear, verbal instructions are given in its use. Hopefully, nobody will need to use it, but remember it's there - just in case.



**Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Planning System** - The government wants to see more houses built throughout the country and is proposing major changes to the planning system to facilitate this. Councils will be required to produce new-style Local Plans that will remove many of the barriers to getting planning permission for new housing developments. If you want to comment on the governments proposals you can follow the link below and respond online or contact a PC Councillor and the PC will include your views in its response.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system>

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