

Binham Parish Council May 2020
Covid-19 report

In Binham and Cockthorpe by working together as a Parish Council, Parish Parochial Council, Binham Parochial Charities, the Trustees of Binham Memorial Hall and The Chequers Pub, supported by a group of amazing volunteers we have remained safe and well. Without this effort I am not sure we would be in such good shape in week eight of lockdown.

My strategy as PC chair person has been to achieve clarity and provide all the necessary key information to remain safe and well in knowing where the vulnerable, children and their families reside in the village. To this end, fortnightly letters have been successfully delivered to each resident household with up to date information provided by the government (www.gov.uk) and NNDC (www.north-norfolk.gov.uk). The Memorial Hall website hosts a Coronavirus page (www.binhamvillagehall.co.uk), and all four village notice boards display this information. Mini posters reminding us to **Stay at Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives** and **How to prevent the spread of the virus** are strategically placed throughout the two villages.

Uppermost in all our minds has been the need to be mindful of ourselves but importantly our neighbours, family and friends. A dedicated contact list, and recognising others not on that list, have kept an eye on neighbours and friends by collecting shopping, prescriptions or being available to chat. Sixty vulnerable over 70s who wished to partake have enjoyed a weekly Hot Meal (main and desert) cooked by Simon and Sarah at the Chequers Inn delivered to their doorsteps by a merry band of villagers, funded by the Binham Parochial Charities and other very generous donations. Fantastic feedback has been received on the deliciousness of the meals that arrive as if by magic! Forty-six children have received two goodie bags containing craft items, crayons, paper, colouring sheets (VE Day bunting) and sweets sponsored by the Memorial Hall. Many of whom have made or written post cards to go to the vulnerable over 70s as a moral boost. Surprise Easter treats, and delicious flapjacks have been included in the lunch packs and children's bags sponsored by The Co-operative Food, Wells-next-the-Sea and Alexandra Howells Deli respectively and very much appreciated by the recipients.

The Playground and the Priory Church have been closed, although the Priory ruins remain accessible observing social distancing at all times. Benefice Sunday services continue from various studies - Rev Canon Fiona Newton and the Rector Rev Ian Whittle, living rooms and outdoors with a lively congregation joining from nearby and further afield.

Young and old come together every Thursday evening at 8pm as many others do across the land outside their house or in the middle of the road to clap or bang pans etc to say thank you to every NHS worker.

Keith Leesmith very generously decided not to retire in April as he planned to as he felt it would be better to remain Binham's clerk until the lockdown is over. We are most grateful to Keith for staying on and negotiating the wodge of notices that arrive every day from NNDC and NALC.

Several tricky planning applications have finally been resolved as the NNDC approved these plans. We look forward to welcoming those who will come to live in the village once their builds are complete.

As chair, I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the effort so far to keep everyone safe and well within the village.

Elizabeth S Brady, Chair Binham PC