

GMK

Gnosall Moreton Knightley
Gnosall Parish Council Newsletter



Summer 2020
Lockdown
Commemorative
Edition



Welcome

Since my optimistic introduction for the March GMK, written in early February, the world has changed for all of us. We had such plans and were set fair to get cracking with so much, with VE day and BKV to look forward to, as well as the Sensory Garden project.

As we know, none of that happened. In fact, it's looking as if much of 2020 will not happen, in terms of holidays and other plans. For so many, it's meant a time of worry and financial hardship, loss of income, separation from families and beloved friends, serious illness and even bereavement. It seems so hard to see a positive future ahead at this difficult and worrying time. But in all of this turmoil, the sense of community support within our village has been a beacon of hope and comfort. I know I'm not alone when I say that I am truly thankful that I live in a village where we look out for our neighbours as much as we do here - it has been truly inspiring and humbling. As this has been such a massive challenge to the village, the nation and the whole world, it is fair to say that it isn't a time we could or should forget. We have learned so much about what is truly valuable in life, what is worth preserving and how much we rely upon so many unsung heroes to live our lives.

This edition is a commemorative one, designed to allow us to remember the huge efforts made by so many people. I am sure that there will be others who have done just as much but about whom I've had no information. Please forgive me if you aren't featured and know that your effort has been just as much valued. Others do not seek the limelight and have not shared their stories and we respect that.

Finally, I would like to add my personal thanks to our CSO, Stuart Ridgewell, and Cllr Jordan Archer, who have done so much to keep the Parish Office running and to our Clerk, Jayne Cooper, who has quietly and without fuss shopped and helped wherever she could, as well as helping co-ordinate the helpline. Our village is lucky to have you.

*Cllr Gail Gregory
Chair of Gnosall Parish Council*



Starting Young!

Our youngest volunteer was 3 year old Harry, who has lived locally for 2 years. At Easter, he made some lovely Easter cards, with help from his mum, and gave them out in the village. Originally started as a fun activity with mum, and as a form of handwriting practice, they were so popular that the idea grew. People began commenting on them on the Community Support Facebook page and so he made more! His total presently stands at about 40! Mum and Harry had all the materials they needed already, so there hasn't been a cost but both are delighted at the pleasure these little cards have given to people. They've certainly brought a smile to many faces - well done Harry!



One Pot Wonders

Julie Clayton, her husband Simon, daughter Rachel and daughter's boyfriend Brandon (living with them during lockdown) have had a busy few weeks. Julie remains on rota at her work as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and Safeguarding Lead at a high school, while her husband has been at home and her daughter (and boyfriend!) who are university students, who have worked from home. Their son, William, is locked down in Stafford. They moved to Gnosall 21 years ago and immediately felt a sense of community – their lovely neighbours made them feel very welcome. Their support was even more important three years ago when Julie had breast cancer and lockdown gave her an opportunity to pay forward that care and support for others.

Simon's 104 year old grandmother in Yorkshire is looked after by his parents, who cook her meals and freeze them for her. That made Julie think about people similarly placed in the village – she began to wonder how they would be able to have a hot meal when parents and carers couldn't visit. She had some minced beef to spare and suggested to Jayne Cooper that she might make a few meals if Jayne would advertise them. Before she could put on her pinny, demand was there and she began producing a range of wonderful one-pot-meals which have been sold to vulnerable people and delivered for just £1 each.

This really is a family concern. Julie's family are her main team and they deliver the meals as well as prepping kilos of spuds daily! Friends and neighbours, Jan and Chris Middleton, have also helped with cooking and delivering, as well as shopping for supplies and donating ingredients, while Helen Cooper makes slices of cake which are popped into deliveries as a little surprise. Many others have donated goods, monetary donations have come in too, while Gnosall Guides and The George and Dragon have also helped support the team. Without the help of all these folk, Julie could not have financed what turned out to be a huge operation – more than 1,300 meals delivered so far to over 80 individual households, with a range of eleven different dishes and the occasional 'special.' All the food is home made with fresh vegetables and no additives. Needless to say, the feedback has been amazing, with compliments flowing in.

Julie and her family have made so many new friends since the lockdown, which seems strange as we are all isolated! They hope that Gnosall will continue to maintain this wonderful new community spirit which has blossomed during lockdown.





Gnosall Foodbank

Shannon Fleming, Gemma Hodgkins and Victoria Hainsworth don't exactly have lots of time on their hands. Shannon's husband is abroad with the military and she is mum to 5 year old Ella, so life is busy; Gemma, a trained florist who sadly lost her husband in 2015, also has a busy life with her two children Aiden (10) and Milly (15); Victoria is a teacher who suffered a bereavement just before lockdown and was taking some time out to deal with that. But all three recognised that help for vulnerable, shielding and isolated families would be needed. Gemma has lived in Gnosall all her life, Shannon for 5 years after lots of moves with the military and Victoria for 3 years, having moved for the peace and quiet offered by the village. They didn't know each other until they became page moderators on the Community Facebook site set up by Jessica Moults.

When Shannon came up with the idea, Gemma and Victoria jumped on board to help. Bank Top Garage kindly allowed them to have donations dropped off there and the group had a staggering number of donations. Because they aren't a registered Foodbank, they get no official financial support and so community generosity is essential. As well as food and toiletries, people have given some small cash donations and the Co-op donates food nearing the end of shelf life so that it isn't wasted.

All donations are wiped down, PPE is worn to ensure the safety of people receiving food parcels, then parcels are dropped off to people who have asked for help for themselves or their neighbours. They also sent toiletries and hand moisturiser to Gingercroft Residential Home, set up an Easter Egg hunt for the children and even supply people with books or magazines to ease their boredom during lockdown. Having each been through difficult times themselves, they didn't want anyone in the village to feel alone or that they couldn't ask for help. It was important to them to come together as a community. At the time of writing, over 150 food parcels have been driven to households across the village and the outskirts. It isn't just food that has been so very warmly received – craft items, things to keep children occupied, just a friendly word or call – all these have resulted in tears of gratitude and happiness. It's been a truly remarkable achievement and there's no doubt that it has cemented the feeling of community on which Gnosall prides itself.

All three women feel that helping others has not only set a positive example to their children but also helped the three of them to feel a sense of achievement – and they have formed a lasting friendship. They are already making plans for continuing their support after lockdown, when times may be eased but not easy for so many. Watch this space!

And for Dessert

You've heard of Julie, the one-pot-wonder? Well, a neighbour of hers decided to use her baking talent to augment these lovely meals with a nice bit of pud!

Helen Cooper has worked for Sainsbury's for 20 years and has continued to do so throughout Lockdown. Not content with being a Key Worker, and also (with her daughter) running her own dogwalking business in the village, she found time to make delicious cakes. Baking has always been a hobby she loves and so this seemed a perfect way to give something back.

Helen has done all the baking herself and takes particular care to ensure that all cakes etc are fully labelled so that ingredients and potential allergens are very clearly-marked. Originally, she funded all this herself but as people began to learn about the cakes, they have donated ingredients, which has been very helpful and another example of community effort. At the time of writing, over 100 slices of delicious cake have gone out with the meals.

Helen thinks that Gnosall has really pulled together during this crisis, especially to support the vulnerable, and she gets a great deal of pleasure from reading the comments on Facebook from people who have received the meals and cake.



FUNDraiser!

Gary Fear likes a laugh. That much is clear because he walked 100 miles around the village in 6 days and wore a different fancy dress on every one of them! And we're not talking amateur here - those costumes were fantastic (as was the accompanying make-up, courtesy of his wife!) and really brought a smile to the village!

The well-travelled estate agent is no stranger to fundraising and this one was for NHS Charities, so Ann Andrews counted the money every night. So far, he's raised almost £3,500! He proved so popular an attraction that he had to publish an itinerary so that people could get to see him and take photographs.

Gary's lived in Gnosall since 1999 and he thinks the village has really worked hard during lockdown to develop even more community spirit. Well done Gary - you certainly helped raise spirits!

A Stitch in Time

Shirley Downe

Shirley is one of Gnosall's sewing ladies and she worked independently to make scrubs bags and headbands, using material that she already had in hand. Some of her 70+ bags have gone to Kettering, Stafford, Leicester and even the mother and baby unit in Cannock, with First Responders helping deliver. Like many of us, especially the vulnerable or shielded, she has stayed on her own patch and seen few people but that didn't stop her doing her bit. People have been grateful for the supplies and she fitted the sewing around her usual chores. Well done Shirley!

Sue Spencer

Sue has lived in Gnosall for fifty years and her daughter Amy is a nurse working for NHS Shropshire and when staff in hospitals were given strict guidelines about the dangers of cross infection and the need for uniforms were to be taken off before leaving the hospital, bagged and taken home for laundry, plastic bags were not an option as they could not be sanitized. So of course – the call went out to mum! "Sewing for NHS Shropshire" was created, with about 20 makers. The first consignment went in a flash and it became obvious that thousands were needed.

Friends have donated bags of fabric, old duvets and so on and now gowns, sleeve protectors, scrubs and hats and ear protectors have been added to the items produced. Sue herself spends up to 5 hours per day sewing and has to date sewn 150 laundry bags, 50 pairs of sleeve protectors, 20 medical gowns and 32 sets of scrub uniform so far!!! The fabric used for scrubs has to be new fabric and Sue bought over 80 metres herself. However, a huge donation from Chris Evans' son, Noah, has helped enormously. He set up a funding page to help the group – amazing! All the items go to a collection point in Oakengates and from there are taken to where they are urgently needed.



Greer, Denise and Melita

Greer O'Connor started the 'Angels with Scissors' group, which has around 30 members from ladies making scrubs bags on their home sewing machines to companies such as "Not Just Curtains", who have turned over their work rooms to making scrubs.

Greer usually runs a small specialist business making reproduction 18th century gowns with friend Val Goodwin, but as lockdown took hold, their events were cancelled and they realised that the NHS urgently needed protective wear. Greer used her business contacts and suppliers to coordinate donations, fabrics, patterns etc. at a central point. She posted on the Gnosall Facebook page

asking if anyone would be interested in making scrubs or donating fabrics and received an overwhelming response! As the work load became overwhelming, Denise Simkin and Melita Edge stepped up to help Greer and the 3 of them shared the coordination and logistics required for the smooth running. Washbags, headgear, full sets of scrubs – they did it all.

Generous donations of around £4,500 (from a child putting her pocket money in the pot, to a £1000 donation from a local group) have allowed about 370 sets of scrubs to be made, along with 500 washbags and 90 hair protectors. What a fantastic achievement by makers and donors alike!

Pam Prince

Pam is a quiet lady who much prefers to take a back seat, but parishioners will be familiar with her friendly face on her fabric and haberdashery stall in Newport Market and from craft fairs, where her period costume is a familiar sight. She and Paul have lived in Gnosall for 16 years and she loves the variety of people and the community spirit.

Pam is one of the team making scrubs for the NHS Shropshire but she also sews independently for Royal Stoke, with assistance from hubby from time to time. Initially, she financed herself, buying fabric and patterns, but has recently been supplied with fabric by Stoke. We all echo her hope that in the future, after Covid-19, we continue to take care of each other and show kindness whenever we can.



The Family Baking Extravaganza

What better to turn your hands to in these testing times than fresh bread and cake? Gnosall Families have been getting busy in the kitchen and share their delicious delicacies here, for all to enjoy.



Kershaw Chocolate Chick Cookies

Makes about 30
225g softened butter
140g caster sugar
1 egg yolk, lightly beaten

2 tsp vanilla extract
280g plain flour
Pinch of salt
Chocolate chips about 50g

Cream softened butter and sugar together until fluffy, then add egg yolk and mix well.

Add flour, salt, vanilla and chocolate chips. Mix into a sticky dough.

Roll out on a floured surface into a sausage shape, roll in cling film and chill for at least 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 190°/Gas Mark 6.

Slice chilled dough into circles or roll and cut shapes, place on baking tray, well-spaced as they spread. Bake for about 15 minutes.

NB: If you can't cook all the dough at once, leave the rest in the fridge until you're ready so it doesn't go soft.

Day Sugar Cookies

225g unsalted butter
225g caster sugar
330g plain flour
1 egg
1 tsp vanilla extract

Mix the butter and sugar together

Add egg and vanilla then gently fold in the flour. Roll out the dough, cut into shapes and bake Gas Mark 4/175C for around 10/12 minutes.



Paleo Cheese Bites

Babybel
breadcrumbs
1 egg
2oz flour
oil for frying.

1. Make bread crumbs using stale bread, you'll only need 1/2 slices of bread for 6 by whizzing in food processor.
2. Beat egg. Then dip in flour first then egg then breadcrumbs.
3. Fry in inch of oil, medium heat until crumbs golden.
4. Remove from oil onto kitchen towel. Then eat!!



The Venables Chocolate Sponge

Mix 175g soft butter and 175g caster sugar. Add 3 eggs and mix. Fold in 175g self-raising flour. Bake for 25 mins on 180 C/350 F/ GM 4. Mixture also makes approx. 12 cupcakes

Make some chocolate icing with icing sugar, cocoa power and drop of water, just to finish it off.



Baking in Action!



Pearce Family



Jeffries Family



Clowes Family

Baking Pride



Morris Family

Ansley Cherry Cakes

3oz self raising flour
3oz cocoa
6oz sugar
6oz unsalted butter
3 large eggs

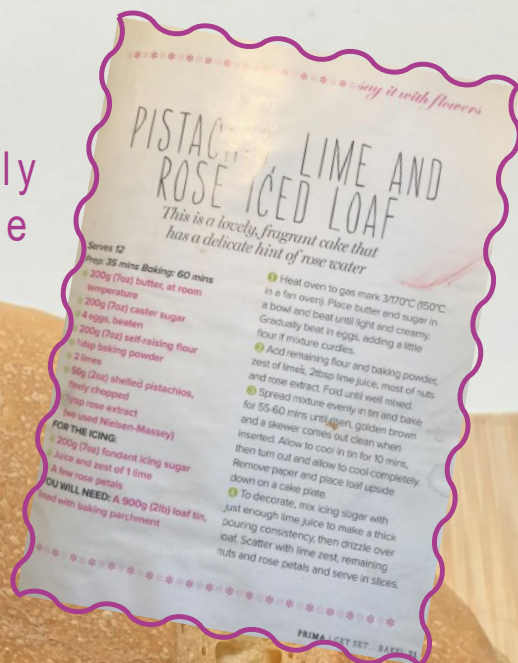
Pre-heat the oven to 180 degrees.
Mix the butter and sugar together.
Whisk up 3 eggs and add them to the mix.
Slowly fold in the flour and cocoa.

Divide between cake cases and cook for 20 minutes,
take out and add chocolate buttons to the top of
each cake, return to oven until chocolate buttons
have melted.





Goodall Family Favourite Cake



Cannell Flapjakes (courtesy of Jamie Oliver)

- 250 g unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing
- 250 g soft light brown sugar
- 4 tablespoons runny honey
- 1 pinch of sea salt
- 100 g mixed nuts, such as hazelnuts and pistachios
- 50 g mixed dried fruit, such as cranberries, apricots, figs
- 350 g rolled porridge oats

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 150°C/300°F/gas 2.
2. Grease and line a rectangular cake tin (roughly 20cm x 30cm).
3. Place the butter, sugar, honey and salt in a medium pan over a low heat, then allow the butter to melt, stirring occasionally. Meanwhile, roughly chop the nuts and any larger dried fruit, then stir them into the pan along with the oats.
4. Transfer the mixture to the prepared tin, smoothing it out into an even layer. Place in the hot oven for 25 to 40 minutes, or until golden around the edges. Leave to cool completely, then cut into squares and serve.



Parlato American Dump Cake

- 250g caster sugar
- 175g plain flour
- 100g butter (or enough to make crumble-like topping)
- Drained tinned peaches

Rub fat into flour to make crumble, add sugar.
Put peaches in bowl, top with crumbly mix.
Bake for around 30 minutes.

Seeing Clearly

Another Gnosall resident who decided to rollup his sleeves and get cracking is Chris Haycock. Although still working full-time in his digital publishing business, he decided (with the help of his wife, Lucy) to join in the effort to support local residents.

Chris is no stranger to working like this, having founded a charity to support rough sleepers across the UK, by providing sleeping bags, clothes and toiletries into a “kip bag” as his way of giving back after recovering from a rough time in his own life. He and his wife, along with their twin girls, moved to Gnosall 7 years ago and amongst the differences they noticed, they appreciate the rural life here and the air quality after living in larger towns and cities. The sense of community spirit is really apparent and they clearly decided to become part of that.

Having made a visor face shield out of curiosity, to see if he could (!) Chris began offering them free of charge to local key workers and even to places like Stoke and Telford/Shrewsbury. He used all the spare materials he had lying about then funded the operation himself. Many residents and key workers have said how grateful they are to have this protection.

The last word goes to Chris, who says “These are extraordinary times, and throughout the lockdown I have seen extraordinary people do some amazing things.” Too true – thank you for being one of them!



Not Just Blood

Many parishioners will be familiar with the work of Blood Bikes, a volunteer organisation of riders who courier emergency and urgent medical items between hospitals and health sites. In the Lockdown, they diversified and formed Visor Bikes! The small team of ten is spread across the three counties and includes Arthur Broadhurst, a Gnosall resident, who makes deliveries on his own motorcycle. Helen Bundy is the local Controller, who takes calls, organises drops and raises funds too.

One of our local BB group had a contact with a company producing visors for front line staff. They needed distributors and that is where VB came in. They source recipients, within Shropshire, Staffordshire & Cheshire, who are still waiting for their official government stock of PPE or are running short. This includes hospitals, hospices, care home, doctor's surgeries, pharmacies and other frontline staff. Their experience as Blood Bikers means the visors are delivered by advanced trained motorcyclists in areas where they have knowledge of NHS establishments. The group now gets supplies from both Bridgnorth and Warwick and also delivers for Penkridge Round Table and the Staffordshire Freemasons who have financed visors and requested that VB deliver them.

All the visors are provided to those in need free of charge. Recipients locally have included Gnosall Surgery, Gingercroft Rest Home, the Care Company and various private carers. To date, over 12,000 visors have been delivered, with front line staff expressing their thanks, their relief and also their desperation. One care company could only take a Covid-19 positive patient back into their care from hospital after they received their visors.

Members of the team report that the community spirit in Gnosall has been nothing short of amazing during lockdown, with residents going out of their way to help the community and ensure their neighbours are looked after. Like so many of us, they feel we are lucky to live in such a caring place.

First Responders - Extra Responses

As well as doing what they normally do in Gnosall, our First Responder team has been extra busy helping everyone else! Jan and Ade have been on call all the way through and the team has also offered its services to the Hotline, the Pharmacy and the Bakery. They have collected and delivered a few prescriptions via the Parish Office and the hotline, delivered scrubs and other items to the drop off point in Stafford for the various sewing teams in the village, walked the streets delivering Parish Council notices to advise of available help and also packed and delivered the orders at the Bakery for people who are self-isolating. In addition, the team has also delivered a couple of care packages for the Foodbank.

In short, whenever anyone trying to support the community during lockdown has needed a hand – First Responders have been there. What a fantastic team we have in Gnosall and how fortunate we are to have people ready and willing to give a hand wherever it is needed. Thank you!

Rainbow Wreaths Brighten the Village!

Cathy Shaw continued working from home during lockdown instead of commuting to Birmingham, so in fact she gained a bit of time through not travelling! She has lived in Gnosall since 2016, when medical concerns prompted a change of lifestyle, though family have lived here for over 20 years. The welcome she received on moving has made her feel that she's always lived here with fiancé Darren.

Like many of us, lockdown prompted her to complete lots of jobs that she'd never had the time for and in so doing, she came across a box of crafting materials that had never been unpacked. Membership of the Community Fb page gave her lots of inspiration and she began playing about with wreath shapes and spare ribbon, putting the photo on the site to see if anyone was interested, though she didn't really think it could raise more than a few pounds. Wrong! Orders began flooding in!

Once her employers heard what she was doing, they generously gave her a "volunteering day" and that enabled her to concentrate on producing these colourful and happy products. Financing all the work herself, she gives £5 from each wreath to NHS charities and the rest goes toward costs. The wreaths are costly and time-consuming to make, with each one taking over an hour. So far, £1000 has been collected and that is set to grow at the time of writing.

The amazing response to the enterprise has been heartening and humbling, with "wreath-spotting" now established alongside stone-spotting and bear-hunts as a popular pastime. As Cathy says, you only have to look around to see what Gnosall has done – the FB page alone has so many great stories. Like so many of us, she loves seeing what our community has come up with.

By the end of May, Cathy had made over 280 rainbow wreaths, used over 2 miles of ribbon, and raised £1,415 from the sales made and orders collected so far Thank you for the rainbows, Cathy!



Gnosall 2020 - History in the Making

Gnosall.2020 is an online history book which will in future be turned into a printed edition. It's being compiled by Storm Barratt, who can be contacted on gnosall.2020@gmail.com and there's a Gnosall.2020 Facebook page too. Everyone will be able to have a digital copy for free (or small donation to charity) or you will be able to buy a print copy.

This will hopefully become a history record of this time, with members of the community sharing thoughts and feelings about lockdown and isolation and what you are doing to keep busy. Storm is trying to capture the mood and community spirit which is being shown, both positive and negative as she wants to show future readers how this challenging time affected ordinary people. There will, of course, be stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things but ordinary people trying to keep a normal routine is equally interesting to historians of the future. Anyone in the parish can send pictures, poems, stories, diary entries, details of what you are doing to keep sane, in fact anything. How is your life different? Have you been affected as a key worker? Have you been with family or alone? Have you had a good lockdown or a nightmare one?

Anonymous contributions are as welcome as ones you want to put a name to and for anyone who hasn't got Internet access, Storm can collect hard copies of your thoughts. Something to lookout for!

Gnosall Businesses Doing Their Bit!

It wasn't just individuals or volunteers who stepped up to do their bit for the village – local businesses did too and customers were happy to play their part. That has been quite a theme of lockdown – people are recognising the value of local businesses and the importance of supporting them during this time so that they are there post lockdown.

Here are some of their stories...



The Boat

The Boat is a well-loved pub, famed for its food. Clare Long is the Landlady and she and husband Robin, along with grandson Matthew (helped by Mum Bet too!) are justly proud of what they've built up in just under 12 years. Lockdown presented a huge challenge, not just to parishioners who could no longer access local facilities but also to owners with a sudden loss of income and purpose. Clare decided to help by making a restricted menu available as takeaway, with social distancing in place. Initially she began with pies and fish & chips, since both have always proved popular, and Tuesdays and Fridays were the chosen nights. So successful was this that she added curries on Saturdays. The meals have been hugely popular and much enjoyed, providing a taste of normality in a difficult time and deliveries are available for those who cannot collect personally.

Clare does all the cooking, with Robin, Matthew and friend Tracey helping serve customers and do deliveries. So far, almost 1000 servings of fish and chips have been served, along with 120 or so curries and 70 large pies – which have always been a very popular item on the menu!

Customers have given lots of positive feedback; they love the food, and are very grateful for the service. Some are in isolation and the delivery service is much appreciated. Others are keen to keep the pub going whilst they are not allowed to open properly. Clare is happy to be occupied as she isn't one used to being idle, so it has been helpful for everybody! Like so many, she wanted to do her bit to keep residents happy and make life more bearable. What a delicious way to do it!

The Bakery

The Bakery is one of Gnosall's oldest businesses and it has survived many a national crisis of one sort or another. True to form, in this pandemic, it has worked hard to ensure that its loyal customers are provided for. Run by Tom and Jane Palmer, along with their daughter Katie, they have a veritable army of assistants – I tried to list their names but gave up at 10 in case I missed anyone off the list. Suffice to say, there is a huge team behind the couple – and they need it.

At the start of lockdown, they began by introducing the usual measures to ensure customer safety – a one-way system, limited numbers in the shop at any one time, protective screens – but it soon became clear that with more people shopping locally, they were going to have to up their game. The most obvious problem was keeping sufficient stock and that took a bit of time to sort out because demand was hugely increased. Opening hours have had to change a little to allow Tom or Jane to visit the wholesalers at the crack of dawn so that shelves are kept stocked and they still have a moment or two to themselves at the end of the day. Certain popular items quickly sell out and limits have been imposed on these so that stock is there for everyone.

Of course, they went further than this and deliveries to vulnerable, household and shielding customers have become a regular feature, with the assistance of Gnosall First Responders, who pack and deliver these parcels. In fact, the Responders simply cannot believe how much there is to do, how much stock comes in and out and how many deliveries are made. It has been a real lifeline for so very many people – but nothing fazes the staff, who take everything in their stride and remain helpful and cheery no matter how busy they become.

The Bakery also acts as a Collect Plus centre for parcel deliveries and this has been a much-used service with online ordering increasing so much and they have also taken phone orders for people who needed that help. In short, they have worked all hours possible to ensure that customers could get what they needed when they wanted it. No wonder this is such a well-loved business in the village!



Green's T Room

Greens is usually a busy place, offering a daytime menu as well as takeaway, Sunday Lunches and much more. During lockdown, Rachel has been on her own in the shop, as distancing restrictions meant that the colleague who volunteers to help in the shop wasn't able to do so. A restricted, takeaway only, menu has been on offer and the cream teas which formed part of it have been much-welcomed, with photos regularly appearing on social media! Deliveries have been made around the village (with the assistance of friends when necessary) and flower arrangements and birthday cakes have been made as usual. So, all in all, it's been rather busy! As if that weren't enough, the shop is also having a bit of a facelift and hopefully it can emerge like a butterfly after restrictions are lifted. Watch this space!

But that isn't all, as Rachel has still managed to shop for other people and cook meals which are also hand delivered each day. Everything has been self-funded – although she was very grateful for a donation of flour recently! Fortunately, a good friend has been able to do a lot of Rachel's own shopping and that has really helped, as there is only so much time to get all this done.

Rachel has always liked to help others, remembering times when she needed help after leaving the army. Her good neighbours (Sarah, Toby and the Rymans) often help with the shop or functions or supplying items as needed and this sense of community is something which she values highly. Limited social interaction is a challenge when you're a highly sociable person but neighbours help enormously. Many of us will share that feeling – thank you Greens!

Feeding the Nation - and Gnosall!

The Co-operative Society has a long history of community involvement and working with vulnerable groups to feed the nation. The original Rochdale Pioneers Society was formed in 1844 based upon the idea of ethical trading and profit-sharing, long before those values became fashionable and the Co-operative Wholesale Society began in 1863 to produce Co-op products to sell in hundreds of their own stores. During this crisis, the company has gone even further.

During the crisis, the Co-Op has been supporting FareShare by donating food worth £1.5million to support foodbanks and charities which have seen donations plummet. Customers can make a donation to this at the tills. It also runs the Food Share scheme, whereby stores give products that are going out of date to local community groups at the end of each day to prevent food waste. Our own Gnosall Foodbank has benefited from this scheme and so far, nationally, over 3m meals have been donated by the Co-op. Any not-for-profit group can apply to be a partner with their local store.

Our local Co-op has put in place all the safety measures necessary to ensure that customers are safe in store and Glyn and his staff have worked hard to ensure that the store is well-stocked and safe. Although they have a small team, they have also run a limited delivery service to those most vulnerable and this has been very much appreciated by recipients. Yet another Gnosall business with a focus on helping customers during this most difficult time – thank you!





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Office Hours

Tuesday	10.00am - 2.00pm	Thursday	<i>by appointment only</i>
Wednesday	9.30am - 12.30pm	Friday to Monday	CLOSED

Stafford Borough Councillors

Cllr Mike Smith	rmsmith@staffordbc.gov.uk	01785 280648
Cllr Patrick Farrington	pfarrington@staffordbc.gov.uk	01785 824162

Staffordshire County Councillor

Cllr Mark Winnington	mark.winnington@staffordshire.gov.uk	01785 822224
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