

East Down and Arlington Newsletter



June 2020



Introduction

Well its certainly been another month of fantastic weather and whilst most of the gardeners will be secretly wishing for some rain, it has been a great tonic to enjoy the Devon countryside. The hedgerows are at their stunning best and during our daily walks, we have enjoyed watching the winter barley grow and the sight of the swallows skimming across its surface looking for a snack.



It remains worrying times for everybody but its great credit to friends, family and neighbours who have closely followed the guidelines and somehow managed to get even closer together as we navigate our way through the crisis.

The newsletter is once again a little light on future events but we will stay close to developments as the restrictions are gradually relaxed and hopefully, we can soon start talking about things to look forward to both in the Village and surrounding areas.

Stay safe everybody and enjoy the sunshine.



New Arrivals

We thought we would start this month with some uplifting good news.

On the 21st April, Sue and Dave Carder welcomed into the world their twin grandsons Alfie David (Dave approves of the name) 7lbs and Jack Philip Carder 5lbs 14oz.



It is great to report that both are doing very well and are being spoilt rotten by big sisters Abigail (10) and Ella (8). Just as well because proud parents Chris and Lindsey aren't getting a great deal of sleep at the moment.

Dave and Sue are itching for lots of snuggles once lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Congratulations and best wishes to all!



Lockdown Pastimes

In previous months we have featured some of our younger folk, showing what they have been up to during lockdown.

This month we have a couple of examples of artwork created by Deborah Crocker, aged 20 something (and a bit). Debs is very modest about her artwork but after some arm twisting, she has agreed that we can share them with you, they definitely made us smile.

The first is a series of wooden planks first coloured and then stamped using inks to create a wall hanging.



Her second piece is a watercolour painting of a rather cheeky chappie.



Fabulous, fun and really uplifting. Beautifully done Debs.

Ducks for sale

Elsewhere on the subject of new arrivals, Debbie King (Down) has a pair of young call ducks for sale (8 weeks old). Please ring Debbie on 07375084926 for more information.



Weekly Church Services

Although our Church buildings remain temporarily closed, our parishioners are still able to worship together.



Each week, Revd. Rosie Austin sends out the details of the service which offers the opportunity to worship by telephone, by zoom, by watching the service and sermon online, by quietly reading through some prayers, sitting quietly without words.....or however you choose. The information will be sent out by e mail each week to those folk on the newsletter circulation. There is also a zoom coffee morning arranged for people to stay in touch.

Revd. Rosie comments “Despite the messages you may have heard... the church buildings are still closed. The PCCs and churchwardens are beginning to plan gradual re-opening, but we need to do this safely so again I ask for your patience. We have a God who hears our prayer wherever we are... but I recognise the value of our buildings to our community”.

Who says Monty Don knows best?

With gardening being one of the few available stress reliefs from the whole lockdown business, several stories are emerging of villagers exercising best practice in their gardens (or not).

It just goes to show, you are never too old to learn !!

Reports have reached the Newsletter HQ of a gardening masterclass from one of our more, shall we say, “experienced” gardeners out Arlington way.

When buying pots of seeds from M&S, why bother labelling the seedlings?



That way you can have hanging baskets overflowing with beetroot and chilli's whilst your veg plots are arranged in neat rows of well, frankly, who knows? Could be marigolds only time will tell.



Also, as a hot tip, if you want it to rain, just spend all afternoon the day before painstakingly watering your garden for the first time in weeks...bound to work.

Elsewhere in the Village an immaculate piece of hedge trimming was only slightly marred by the interference of next doors fairy lights. A very rapid piece of repair work soon rectified the problem, no harm done.....apart from a few blushes.



When informed of the incident, a mildly amused spouse was heard to comment “I was assured that no cable had been cut for months, she didn't mention anything about moving on to other peoples!”

Closer to home, we acquired a petrol lawnmower from our neighbours to take on the sloping lawns around the cottage. “Lovely little runner, it will cut anything and just keep going forever”....you know the sort of sales pitch. Anyway 10 minutes in, it gave up the ghost and refused to re-start.



Following a very helpful after sales inspection, it turns out you have to put petrol in! who knew? At least we are good for local morale, Shirley hasn't stopped laughing for weeks.

Elsewhere, some of our ex Villagers who have emigrated to foreign parts, have been taking part in an Ilfracombe plant share initiative on Facebook. A very practical way for local gardeners to share, rather than waste their excess plants. It is a cracking idea once you have got your mind around meeting a stranger on a street corner and navigating your way through introductions and swapping your plants at a safe social distance.





KENTISBURY GARDENING GROUP

First of all, a big shout out to Nerys and Sian who arranged a virtual plant sale via our Facebook group raising over £285 for the NHS and North Devon Hospice. Everyone was very pleased with their lovely healthy plants and enjoyed planting them up in their new homes. Thank you both for all your efforts and to all the gardeners who bought plants.



Nerys and Sian then followed this up by coordinating and organising a delivery of spring perennials from a local nursery, Abell Perennials. Everyone was delighted with their purchases and all agreed that the quality, size, health and cost of each plant was wonderful. It's great to be able to support a local business at this difficult time so big thanks again to Nerys and Sian for arranging this and to everyone who bought plants. Abell are now selling mixed trays of summer flowering perennials so there's another chance to get some fantastic plants at great prices.



You can find out more by taking a look at Kentisbury Gardening Group on Facebook. Whether you're new to gardening or more experienced our fun, supportive gardening community provides a place to share gardening enthusiasm and pick up tips, know-how and insights - and great plants.

Enjoy your gardens - Jenny
Newsletter

June 100 Club Draw

We are pleased to announce that two of our intrepid roving reporters (Ray and Carol Thomas) have conducted the June 100 club draw following strict social distancing guidelines.



This month's winner is Linda Watt with Shirley Lerwill scooping second prize. As usual, the money will be distributed in a safe manner and a big thank you to Ray and Carol for taking time out (from their chippy tea at the Pyne Arms) to make the draw.

Local Businesses

Our three local businesses continue to provide support through the crisis.

Sandpark Service Station

"Camps" are offering deliveries to the elderly and vulnerable.

Call Will Camp on 01271 883320. Opening hours:

- Mon, Wed, Thurs and Fri 8.45am to 5.30pm
- Tues and sat 8.45 to 1pm
- Sun 10am to 12noon

Besshill farm shop

01271 850311. besshillfarmshop.co.uk

To Help with Social Distancing & Self Isolation
We can supply your Weekly Shop!

Free Local Delivery – Please call to discuss what you need.

It is always worth checking by phone or the internet for the latest possible information.

The Pyne Arms

The Pyne Arms are once again running to their popular takeaway service. See their Facebook page for up to date menu options.

Takeaway, “drive thru” and a delivery option available.

Just ring through your order and preferred “pick up time” during the day and then turn up in the car park and use the “drive thru” service. You will be greeted by a member of staff at safe distance, order taken and brought out to you.

All payments to be made via contactless payment in the car park. We are also offering a delivery service for those in isolation, charges will apply and delivery within reasonable distance.

Serving 5.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings

Last orders for delivery to be placed by 7.30 p.m.

Serving Sunday lunch from 12.00 to 2.00 p.m.

Please speak with a member of staff if you have any intolerances or dietary requirements.

Tel: 01271 850055

Charlie Dixon Counselling & Psychotherapy

Approachable, relaxed counsellor providing reassuring support & solutions to your problems.

Based in Kentisbury, offering flexible appointments, including evenings.

Free introductory appointment.

Please get in touch to discuss how I can help you on:

07870 281356

charliedixoncounselling@hotmail.com

www.charliedixoncounselling.co.uk

When I get Up From My Chair by Pam Ayres

Quiet please! Kindly don't impede my concentration
I am sitting in the garden thinking thoughts of
propagation
Of sowing and of nurturing the fruits my work will
bear
And the place won't know what's hit it
Once I get up from my chair.

I'm at the planning stages now, if you should need to
ask
And if I'm looking weary, it's the rigours of the task
While the creation of a garden is a strain, as you can
guess
So, if my eyes should close, it isn't sleep of course,
it's stress.

Oh, the mower I will cherish, and the tools I will oil
The dark, nutritious compost I will stroke into the soil
My sacrifice, devotion and heroic aftercare
Will leave you green with envy
Once I get up from my chair.

I've got lots of leeks to dibble and my runner beans to
stake
And I want everything hung up – the garden hoe, the
garden rake
I'll disinfect the green house, when I've finished in
the shed
Then, beside my faded roses, I will snip off every
head.

I will excavate the bindweed, treat the moss upon the
lawn
That hairy bittercress will curse the day that it was
born
I will rise against the foe, and in the fight, we will be
matched
And the cabbage caterpillars they will curse the day
they hatched.

Oh, the branches I will layer and the cuttings I will
take
Let other fellows dig a pond, I shall dig a LAKE.
My garden – what a showpiece!
There'll be pilgrims come to stare
And I'll bow and take the credit
Once I get up from my chair.