

Tibenham Tidings

News from the Parish Council and the Community Hall Committee

Newsletter – Late Spring 2020

This is a special issue of “Tibenham Tidings”. As we go into the end of our fourth week of the lockdown for the Covid-19 pandemic, we have unearthed several items that we thought might be useful to you all.

Your parish councillors wish all our residents well in these very trying times. Some of you might need extra support during the current situation: if you need help, please ask us.

If you are having difficulties because of the coronavirus restrictions, there is a Help Hub run jointly by South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils. Simply call 01508 533933.

Tibenham Parish Council can also offer help and support to our residents. If you would like to volunteer to help within the community, have use of a car or van, can provide handyman, plumbing or electrical skills or you are happy to have a chat with one of your fellow parishioners over the phone, please call the Clerk on 07796 174255 or email tibenhamparishclerk@outlook.com and let Marianne know.

If you need help from us, contact Marianne and she will put you in touch with someone who can help. We have a list of volunteers who are happy to help with collecting prescriptions, picking up food shopping, posting mail, etc.

Gareth Roderick Jones

A personal view of the Coronavirus episode

I have been thinking about life as it is for us living in a rural area during this current crisis. When I speak to others when walking the dog, ensuring social distancing of course, I often find myself saying thank goodness I live here and not in a city, the response is often the same. At least we have the countryside on our doorstep with space for those who can go out and exercise, walk the dog and appreciate nature.

I have always valued and accepted that I am one of the lucky ones who have escaped the City and all that goes with it. During this crisis I have learned even more to accept that I am one of the lucky ones who can get out into my garden, walk the dog around the fields and footpaths with little or no risk of contracting the virus. Even if I meet someone, I have to say we are all respecting the social distancing.

I have a very positive outlook on life and this has been reinforced by the positive way that people are getting on with life and how others have stepped up to supporting those who need help. Rob at The Greyhound has cooked and frozen meals for those in need, and he delivers them, just contact him if you need help (Greyhound – 01379 677676). Karen at the small shop at Samphire in Pristow Green Lane has a range of essentials so that people can buy and stay local.

I am avoiding going to the big stores and I have been shopping at local village stores and have found them excellent and much easier. I know they are slightly more expensive, that is a given, but more convenient and certainly quieter. One of my hopes is that people will continue to support local shops when this crisis ends and help keep villages alive and sustainable, and reduce their carbon footprint as a bonus.

I regularly use the web site Next Door to keep up with local information. I have noticed that there have been some negative comments about various issues that perhaps result from people's frustration and loneliness at seeing others out and about when they have to totally isolate themselves.

Life is so different now. We should try and respect each other and the way in which we are reporting or responding to messages on line, is not easy for anyone being isolated and unable get out as normal. Let's be kind to each other during these difficult times

One issue that continues to upset me is that the media tell us that we can all keep in touch via social media on line. It would be nice if everyone had fast reliable broadband. I know it is coming to Tibenham and other villages around, but I can only assume it is now delayed by this virus, and so we are unlikely to have full coverage until the end of 2020 or early in 2021, not much help during the current crisis. When is this two tier system going to end? All I ask is that when this crisis ends everyone is still here and has emerged healthy in mind and body to pick up where we all left off in March. STAY SAFE

David Timson

Six Easy Ways to Stay in Virtual Touch

It is fair to say the past few months have been very disruptive with Covid-19 and the government lockdown temporarily restructuring our way of life in rapid and profound ways.

What has become very clear is that the internet has become our fourth utility, essential for providing entertainment, remote working and educating children – especially for those of us in more remote rural communities.

But perhaps most important is staying in virtual touch with family and friends as there's nothing like seeing their faces to boost everyone's spirits. However, with so many online services available, it can be hard to know where to begin.

So, here are six easy to use platforms to help get you started – and they're all free. For video calls from a laptop or PC, you will need a webcam, microphone and speakers/headphones:

FaceTime

Video call an individual or group. Easy to use but only works with Apple devices (iPhones, iPads, MacBooks etc.). The app should come pre-installed.

Facebook Messenger

Share messages/photos/videos and video call an individual or group. Available on most smartphones and tablets with a desktop version for laptops/PCs. If you already have a Facebook account, just download the app.

WhatsApp

Share messages/photos/videos and video call an individual or group. Available on most smartphones but not usually tablets. For longer calls or with more than one person it's better to use a service accessible on devices with bigger screens.

Skype

Video call an individual or a group. Available on smartphones, tablets and laptops/PCs. However, for those less savvy with technology, the platform can be a bit more complicated to use than others on this list.

Google Duo

Video call an individual or a group. Available on most devices but mostly android smartphones. If everyone in your family has an iPhone it's often easier to use FaceTime as the app comes pre-installed.

Zoom (free trial)

Video call an individual or a group of people. Very similar to Skype but traditionally used more by businesses. However, works just as well for family catch ups and very easy to use. When setting up a call, create a 'password' people have to enter when joining for security.

The above platforms all require a stable and reliable internet connection which can be tricky with more of us at home and traffic moving from roads to routers.

That's why at County Broadband we're building new Hyperfast full-fibre networks to provide lightning-fast speeds up to 1,000mbps only available to 10% of UK households. We're also putting together some exciting new offers for customers who sign up to our network so stay tuned. For the latest updates and to get Hyperfast full-fibre, visit www.countybroadband.co.uk

Matt Stott

Tibenham Community Hall

The Corona Virus has affected everything in our daily lives. We had to close the Hall and cancel all events for the foreseeable future. On the up side it has given our Committee Members a chance to stop and enjoy more free time, even if they are socially isolated.

It has certainly given me the chance to catch up on those jobs at home, a bit of decorating and gardening, if only we could get plants and materials.

One of the big issues that has hit us is that the Hall is unable to provide any services at this time as most of the Committee Members are self-isolating either because of their age or health condition. It has highlighted to us that we do need younger members of the Village to get involved in order for us to provide a wider range of activities when we re-open, whenever that is in the future.

The financial situation is the second big issue to affect us, the hall has ongoing running costs but with no income for the foreseeable future. We have looked at what we can do to reduce costs and what costs are naturally reduced due to closure of the building, electricity, heating and gas for cooking. This lack of income will deplete our reserves and affect how we can continue to maintain the building in the longer term. I know this is the same for all village halls, ongoing costs and no income, so we are not alone.

When we do have the opportunity to reopen, it will require a large effort to get back into the rhythm, and restart life. I am hoping we get your support.

I can only hope that what I see as the communities coming together more will continue once normal living returns, and that more people will want to work within their community to help improve life and social contact.

David Timson, Chairman TCH

Contact Information

Tibenham Parish Council

Website:

<http://tibenhampc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk>
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Email: tibenhamparishclerk@outlook.com

Tel: 07796 174255 (Clerk)

Clerk – Marianne Purdy

Chairman – Gareth Roderick-Jones

Vice-Chairman – David Timson

Member – Gemma Lambert

Member – Auriel Mephram

Member – Alan Harris

Member – Caroline Knight

Member – Darren Gipson

Tibenham Community Hall

Website:

<http://www.tibenhamcommunityhall.org/>

Chairman - David Timson

01379 677674 - timson25@btinternet.com

Treasurer – Alan Harris

01379 674427 – harris823aj@btinternet.com