



WELCOME TO THE NINTH CORONAVIRUS NEWSLETTER FROM BRIXTON PARISH COUNCIL



LOCAL COUNCIL  
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QUALITY

Issue 9 – week ending 22nd May 2020

## Brixton Parish Council Coronavirus Newsletter

This newsletter is produced weekly (Friday) by Brixton Parish Council and published on the Brixton Parish Council website and Facebook pages. Updates in between are posted on the Brixton Devon website <https://www.brixtondevon.co.uk/>, and on Love Brixton Devon and Brixton Village Facebook. A copy is also posted on the notice board in the village by the pedestrian crossing.

Government guidance is advising us to **STAY ALERT!** to the spread of coronavirus as some people gradually return to work and we have extra time for us to exercise and be outdoors. Social distancing and good hand hygiene remain part of all our everyday behaviour to prevent the spread of this deadly virus. We can all help control the virus if we all stay alert. **Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms.**

Vulnerable residents are advised to still stay at home until at least the end of June even for essential supplies and exercise, to minimise face-to-face contact and prevent being exposed to the virus. Around 34,000 people in Devon have been identified as having an underlying health condition that puts them at very high risk if they catch coronavirus.

There is no change to this guidance, the rigorous 'shielding' measures introduced to help keep safe those who are considered extremely clinically vulnerable are still in place.

**Are you shielding or At Risk?** The government continues to encourage everyone who has received a letter advising that they are clinically extremely vulnerable to register on the government website or call 0800 028 8327 to register for extra support, even if they don't need it right now. Also please register with the Brixton Parish Councils COVID 19 Community Emergency Team led by Cllr Helen Williams so that the team and local volunteer leaders are aware of your circumstances in case you need extra support at any time in the future. All personal information is held in a way which is GDPR compliant. Email [helen.deaswilliams@brixtonparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:helen.deaswilliams@brixtonparishcouncil.org.uk) or phone 01752 881873. Note: There is guidance on the Brixton Parish Website and Facebook on how to register with the Government as Vulnerable if you were expecting but did not receive a letter. You can also use the 'Nobody should feel alone' flier on the website.

### THIS WEEK

#### Update on plans for St. Mary's CofE Primary School Brixton from Adrian Clements Head of School

Everyone at school would like to thank the whole of the local community for their support and co-operation during the lockdown period. As a school we have remained open for some groups of children as many schools have, and although it has been a very strange time for everyone, I would like to give a huge amount of credit to all of my staff for their hard work and commitment, along with a massive thank you for the positive approach taken by all of our families.

We are now making plans to re-open the school for more children from the 1st June, as you will probably be aware. This will be a difficult time as we manage all of the procedures and routines of a normal school day at a time that is far from normal.

With that in mind, we have had to take the decision to keep the fenced part of the school playground locked at all times until further notice. This won't include the field as that is an open space, but please continue to only use this after the school

day and at weekends. We will be using the field during the school day.

Our priority is the safety of everyone in school and we are making changes to the way we work. Locking the gates, will be one of the pieces of the jigsaw in helping us to prioritise the safety of everyone and we hope that you will understand this.

Stay Safe!  
Adrian Clements  
Head of School

#### **Update from Yealm Medical Centre from Kerry Snell, Practice Manager.**

I thought it would be helpful to update you on some of the changes in the background here at Yealm.

#### **Online services:**

We are now ready to get online services back up and running. Thanks to the help of a handful of willing patients, I have been able to test the facility and all appears to be working well! Initially we can only switch on access to order repeat medications. In the near future we will be able to add other features such as booking appointments on line, but we cannot do this at the moment due to Covid-19 restrictions.

I am now in the process of rolling out access to the online services to previous users of The Waiting Room. These patients will receive their username and password via email and then will have 7 days to activate the account. Please look out for your email and check your junk mail too just in case! There is no quick or easy way to do this and it is very admin intensive at our end as we have to individually activate every account. Over 700 patients were regular users of our previous system so I am initially targeting those who frequently order their medication this way.

As I am sure you can appreciate, we want to prioritise those patients who previously used online services. Therefore, if you have not used the online services before, please bear with us. The registration process is different and we are required to see identification before setting up access so I will need to look at how to manage this whilst still practicing social distancing. It may be necessary to arrange an appointment system for this – I will update again as soon as we are ready to enter this phase.

#### **Texting:**

I am also trialling a texting system to advise patients that their medication is ready to collect. We are currently doing this with acute medication (new or urgent medication such as antibiotics) or if we have medication that has been awaiting collection for over a week in order to make room for newly dispensed items.

Depending on the success of this we may be able to send a text at the point when medication is dispensed. We will monitor the practicality of this over time. The good thing with the new online system is that you will receive confirmation of your request and a date when the medication will be ready – so the texting may not be needed in the long term.

If you have any feedback or suggestions about any of this please let me know. I know that communication has been a problem in the past and I hope that this will finally start to resolve some of the issues. I hope that the new telephone system (installed in early March) has helped too.

I would like to extend my personal thanks on behalf of myself, the Partners and staff here at the medical centre for your support. The timing of introducing a new clinical system and new telephone system at the same time as we are experiencing a worldwide pandemic has been a huge challenge and we are grateful for your patience.

With very best wishes. Stay safe.

Kerry Snell  
Practice Manager

A copy of this letter is on the Parish Council website and on the Community Notice Board in Brixton village

#### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES DURING THE COVID19 CRISIS**

If you live in the parish of Brixton and are experiencing financial hardship as result of the lock down Brixton Feoffee Trust, Yealm Community Energy Company or South Hams Local Support Fund may be able to help you/ your family.

**Brixton Feoffee Trust** has allocated £3,000 from its reserves for one-off grants of up to £100 per household for food and basic essentials depending on the individual household's circumstances and subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

Confidential applications can be made for a grant to buy food and basic essentials. Please contact the Clerk, Sally Axell, on 01752 880262 or email [brixtonfeoffeetrust@googlemail.com](mailto:brixtonfeoffeetrust@googlemail.com) for further information. Local people have already been helped by the Feoffee Trust.

**Yealm Community Energy - COVID relief** - Yealm Community Energy has committed £2,000 from its upcoming community fund payment to Brixton for measures relating to COVID-19 applications can be made by individuals, groups or organisations using the application form (2019) available on the YCE website. Please contact Andrew Moore on 01752 873532 or email [drramoore@gmail.com](mailto:drramoore@gmail.com) for more information. A small local group under the Community Emergency Plan has been set up for Brixton to monitor applications. If you need financial help in a local COVID19 related matter please contact Andrew in the first instance. A grant has already been made to an applicant in Brixton. South Hams District Council, in association with Devon County Council launched a Local Support Fund to support those whose financial situation has been affected by the current pandemic and are now out of cash for basic essentials for their household. More information can be found on <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/welfarefund>

National Government support for businesses can be found on [www.businesssupport.gov.uk](http://www.businesssupport.gov.uk)

**The Recycling Centre at Ivybridge** reopened on the 11th May for waste that would be harmful or risky to store at home. Essential visits are subject to the following COVID19 Guidance see last weeks newsletter

**The Brixton Prescriptions and shopping list** updated 21st May can be found on the Brixton Parish Council website and on Facebook - please contact Helen Williams with any updates or additions.

#### **Prescriptions**

Coordinator for prescriptions from Yealm Medical Centre and Dean Cross Surgery – **JULIE ECCLES** phone 07786 378053 email: [julieeccles1@btinternet.com](mailto:julieeccles1@btinternet.com). Yealm Medical Centre now has its online prescription service available 'Systemonline Patient Online Service'. If

you have access to this service please order your repeat prescriptions via this, otherwise please email the medical centre, as previously on e.yealmmedicalcentre@nhs.net. Request your repeat prescriptions just under two weeks before required then email Julie at least two days before collection is needed. Volunteers pick up prescriptions on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Our FIVE prescription volunteers also help cover emergency pickups and Dean Cross, all coordinated by Julie Eccles. Over 60 regulars ask for pick up, happy to take on more to save trips to Dispensaries. Please pre-pay if you are not exempt, volunteers cannot pay. Also if you have any medications which need signed for or are kept in the fridge at the Medical Centre please advise Julie as this will ensure they are dispensed.

#### **Community Resources**

**The Brixton Post Office and Shop** is open 9-12 weekdays and in Yealmpton in the afternoons. Please use the services available, including for gas and electric keys and a wide range of Post Office services, as well as newspapers, food and cleaning materials, cards, stationery etc.

**Yealmpton Stores** – Those ordering and pre-paying from Yealmpton Stores will have their shopping picked up and delivered by volunteers from Yealmpton. Email order to fionalogie@aol.com or phone the shop on 01752 881332. Please plan for next day delivery, but not Sundays. Shopping in person is still fine for those able to visit. A big thank you to Yealmpton volunteers for this help.

**Brixton Fish & Chips** opened on Tuesday 19th May ... it is best to phone an order in to 880362 and arrange a pick up time then make contactless payment when picking up. The pavement is marked for social distancing for a queue towards their car park. Please don't park in the road outside.

Annie at **'Just Williams'** can supply 1kg bags of frozen veg and fruit, phone first to arrange payment and pick up 5-6pm 880226 ... Annie can be flexible if needed on timing.

**Rodgers Texaco Garage/Petrol station** closed on Sundays, open from Mon- Sat 08.00-18.00hrs for the full range of services newspapers, local shopping services, car servicing and MOTs.

**Londis** at Yealmpton Garage are also stocked and offering excellent service to locals. Keep your distance and pay by card rather than cash to minimise risk if visiting local shops.

**Morrisons Doorstep Delivery** is a dedicated telephone line for their customers who are not able to visit a shop but are able to place an order over the phone. Customers can choose from a Food Box or place an order from a selection of 45 essential groceries. The order is then matched to a local store that picks up the order and delivers it directly to the customer the following day. Payment will be taken through a contactless card by the delivery driver. Call 0345 611 6111 and select option 4 to order a Food Box or 5 to place an order for Doorstep delivery. The order will take 24 hours to process.

**Volunteer leaders** look after their small areas in Brixton Parish as a contact point; are alert to any issues or signs someone need help locally. Volunteer leaders walk around their area daily (while doing their exercise!) to look out for signs of distress if not already alerted by neighbours or daily phone calls

We can all help look out for each other - If starting to feel seriously unwell or unable to phone, everyone is asked to hang a pillowcase, towel or similar from their letterbox, door, and window – a visible signal that help might be needed – better safe than sorry.

A big 'thank you' to the team of volunteers for the great work they are doing supporting people in the community. We are also working closely with neighbouring parishes particularly Yealmpton and Wembury plus South Hams District Council and Devon County Council for more information from South Hams and Devon County Council please visit their websites.

**South Hams District Council** has a hotline **01803 861297** for residents who can't access information and support available through the council's websites or social media but need help and support during the corona virus outbreak. The number is open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday with an out of hour's answerphone. The team can help with queries such as where to get additional help and support and put people in touch with their nearest community support group e.g. Helen and team.

**Bus time tables** for information, up-to-date bus timetables, including temporary changes, go to: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/transport>

**Brixton Feoffee Trust Community Car Scheme** is temporarily suspended.

**Sherford Community** – We liaise closely with the Residents Association in support their emergency response and through the Sherford Trust.

**Access to Dental Care** - Local Urgent Dental Care (UDC) systems provide care for people with urgent and emergency dental problems. Registered patients who have a dental practice should contact their dentist by phone to seek a referral. All NHS dental surgeries should be accessible by phone, even though their doors are shut. Unregistered patients people i.e. who don't have a dentist, should call the dental helpline 03330 063300 email: - [accessdentalhelpline@nhs.net](mailto:accessdentalhelpline@nhs.net). Out of usual surgery hours, people should call NHS111. For further information, contact the NHSE/I dental team in the South West at [england.swdental@nhs.net](mailto:england.swdental@nhs.net).

**St. Marys Church, Brixton** – the church building is currently closed. Online Sunday Worship will be held at 10.00am using Zoom. Use the link below to join in: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89475754919>. For information on services and prayer groups see the [combinedbenefice.co.uk](http://combinedbenefice.co.uk) website or follow the Yealm Erme M.C. Facebook information.

**Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm** is in telephone contact with all its 40+ families. If you have concerns about a person with dementia or if as a family or a carer you need additional support please contact Maxine on 07450206312. There are also regular updates on Facebook

**Citizens Advice South Hams** - Advice line: 03444 111 444 (Monday - Friday 9am - 4pm) Email: [www.southhamscab.org.uk](http://www.southhamscab.org.uk)  
Letter: Citizens Advice, Follaton House, Plymouth Road, Totnes TQ9 5NE

**Walking on the public rights of way** in Brixton please keep your PLEASE KEEP YOUR DOG/S ON SHORT LEADS AT ALL TIMES AND ALWAYS KEEP TO THE PATH WHEN WALKING ON ANY PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY FOOTPATHS THROUGH FIELDS as there are baby lambs there now and ewes about to lamb ... even a dog on a lead can frighten a sheep. Please stick to the signposted footpath if you are not on the footpath you are trespassing.

**Boots pharmacies are offering safe spaces for victims of domestic abuse** within their pharmacies for victims of domestic abuse. Anyone needing help can ask staff at the counter to use the consultation room, where they will be able to contact local services for help and advice. If you need help, please call Victim Support on 0300 303 0554. Lines are open 12pm-6pm Monday to Friday. If you need support outside of these times, call Supportline for free on 08 08 16 89 111. You can now also access Victim Support's free live chat for 24/7 support. In an emergency always call 999

**Text school nurses for support.** During these unsettling times, young people aged 11-19 in your household who may have health and wellbeing concerns can contact local school nurses who offer a free and confidential text service called Devon Public Health Nursing ChatHealth available Monday to Friday 9.00-am to 5pm by texting 07520631722.

Take part this weekend in the National Trust current Project **No Mow May**  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/take-part-in-the-no-mow-may-challenge>

Thank you to everyone for keeping our community going and safe over the last 9 weeks ... please continue to smile and wave... give a shout and make a great noise on Thursday for our wonderful health care and all support workers and now teachers and school staff. Look after our farmers... keep dogs on short leads where the public rights of way footpaths cross the fields. We can control this virus if we all **STAY ALERT!**, keep our distance, wash our hands, think of others and play our part ... coronavirus relies totally on us to spread and continue the infection it doesn't do it on its own.

**STAY ALERT!**

**PLAY YOUR PART**

**OBSERVE SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ALL TIMES**

**THINK TWICE ABOUT HOW YOU ENJOY THIS BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND AND STAY SAFE**

Liz Hitchins Chairman  
Brixton Parish Council



