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### **The Parish Council Newsletter**

Welcome to the July 2020 edition of the Parish Council Newsletter. This two page version of the Newsletter is available on the Council's website. Also, **we are printing copies again!** These will be available from our usual outlets at Forest Pharmacy; Fourways Stores; Budgen and Woodington Feeds. We will be making regular Newsletter updates to be found on our **web site** and our **Facebook** pages – type in **Copythorne Parish Council** on Facebook to get to our pages.

### **An Updated Message from the Parish Council to All Our Parishioners – COVID-19 MORE GREEN SHOOTS APPEARING!**

As with our previous recent issues, the Parish Council would like to express our sincerest wishes that all of you **stay safe and well** in this continuing period of measures to inhibit and hopefully beat the spread of the Coronavirus (**COVID-19**). The easing of the restrictions is much welcomed, but within those expanding new freedoms, we must all still **continue to be vigilant!** And don't forget that there are still many in our community who have to stay at home. As well as continuing help from our now well-established support groups within the Parish, as an individual, **you can still keep an eye out for neighbours you know can't get out and are in possible need of help.**

The Parish Council continues to provide **updates on our website and Facebook pages.**

The Parish Council will continue to **hold meetings virtually via videoconferencing,** until the guidance to us changes. Our next meeting takes place on **14<sup>th</sup> July** and if you have an issue you'd like raised under the '**Public Session**' agenda item, please contact the Clerk; details below. **We'll continue to keep these arrangements under review.**

Both the **Parish Hall** (except for the Pre-School) and the **playground** continue to be closed, but we expect that changes may be up-coming when new guidance is issued very shortly.

**And everyone: Please Continue to Be Careful! - Be Safe! - Be Well!**

### **Announcing the Annual Parish Award!**

The '**Annual Parish Award**' is made every year by the Parish Council on behalf of the Parish community to an individual or group which has made an outstanding contribution to the life of the Parish community as a whole. The Award was brought into being to ensure we had a mechanism for recognising the, often unsung and selfless, contribution which those people make for all of us.

Nominations are invited by the Parish Council in February every year and readers will know that, normally, the Award is made at the **Annual Parish Meeting (APM)** held at the end of March each year. However, due to the Coronavirus Lockdown, the APM was cancelled and we could not announce the Award in the usual way.

However, to proceed with making the Award, the Parish Council endorsed this year's selected winner at its meeting in June and we are very pleased indeed to announce that, this year, the **Annual Parish Award** is made to:

### **Barbara Smith**

Barbara has given many years of voluntary and unstinting service to our community in a number of guises, including as a Parish Councillor, as a member of the Parish Hall Committee and most recently dealing with bookings and day to day finance for the Parish Hall. **A richly deserved Award!**

We will be finding a way of making a formal presentation in the near future, but in the meantime:

**Thank you Barbara, for all that you do for our community!!**



*continued overleaf*

## Coronavirus – Further Update on Help from Our Local Community Shops

We have further updated our survey of our fantastic local shops which are open to serve our community. All our local shops and services are working in much the same way, with **Local Farm Shops**: – **Alford's** open Thursday, Friday and Saturday (02380 812 269 for orders) and **Tatchbury Manor Farm** on Friday and Saturday for order collections ([tatchburymanorfarm.co.uk](http://tatchburymanorfarm.co.uk)); **Forest Pharmacy** weekdays 8.30 am to 5.30 pm and Saturday 10.00 am to 2.00 pm (023 8081 2734 for pharmaceutical delivery requests); **Budgens** normal 7 days a week opening and **Spar** normal 7 days a week opening. **Fourways Stores and Bartley Post Office** – the shop is open from 6.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. every day and the post office from 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. (02380 813 481 or [johanne@fourwaysstores.com](mailto:johanne@fourwaysstores.com) for orders / deliveries)

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL ABOVE INFORMATION IS CORRECT AT TIME OF WRITING**

## Replacing Our Worn Out Parish Benches

Readers will know that the Parish Council has launched a project under its '5 Year Local Parish Plan' to refurbish and/or replace most of the **Parish benches**, of which we have several! Many of these have seen better days and it was time to refresh and in some cases replace them.

We are pleased to announce that this two year project has now begun and the **first two new benches** were installed at the **Parish Hall** in the upper field earlier this month. These are recycled plastic benches, made to look like a dark oak, each using **60 kg of waste plastic** – a durable bench for many years but as a bonus, saving plastic that would otherwise have gone to landfill!



This is an excellent step forward in the Parish Council programme to make environmental improvements in the Parish and further developments will take place over the forthcoming months! **Watch this space!**

## Non-Invasive Plant Species – A Challenge in the Parish and the Broader Forest

In our last edition we reported a rise in sightings of **Japanese Knotweed**. This species was introduced as a garden plant during the Victorian era. It can become highly invasive due to its extensive rhizome system and is notorious for causing structural damage and being a major problem in the countryside. If you spot any, it is important that you know what to do about it before it becomes impossible to manage. **Dealing with Knotweed is a professional activity** using the right chemicals and procedures – you can't just cut it down and assume it's dealt with. You **must not** take it to Local Authority Waste Recycling Centres or put it in garden waste bags for collection.



There is clear information on how to spot it and further advice at:

[www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-japanese-knotweed-from-spreading](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-japanese-knotweed-from-spreading). Also, other information and identification sheets for Japanese Knotweed and many other invasive plant species can be found at the **NSSS site** – [www.nonnativespecies.org](http://www.nonnativespecies.org).



But more than that, we are also hearing about sightings of **Himalayan Balsam** as well! **Himalayan Balsam**, introduced in the early nineteenth century as an ornamental garden plant, thrives in damp areas and has attractive pink flowers. However, when its seed pods ripen they 'explode', shooting the seeds up to a distance of 7 metres so it has 'jumped the garden fence' and spread into the wild where it can form dense colonies, out-competing our native wildflowers. Luckily it has short roots and is easy to pull up. There is clear information on how to spot it and further advice at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) site - [www.hiwwt.org.uk/new-forest-non-native-plants](http://www.hiwwt.org.uk/new-forest-non-native-plants) and see also the

**Parish Council web site** for updated information on **Himalayan Balsam Removal Projects**.

**Date of the Next Parish Council Meeting:** The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July** and as reported above, will be conducted via video conferencing. Contact the Clerk for more information on how to access the meeting.

The **Clerk to the Council, David Rigby**, can be contacted by post at: **9, The Cleaves, West Totton, Southampton, SO40 8WL** or by telephone: **02381120150** or by email at: [parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk](mailto:parishclerk@copythorne.org.uk); website: [www.copythorne.org.uk](http://www.copythorne.org.uk). Details of individual Parish Councillors, and information on District and County Councillors, can also be found on the Parish Council Website and on community notice boards.