Allington News

Now online many thanks to John Slater ... allingtononline.co.uk

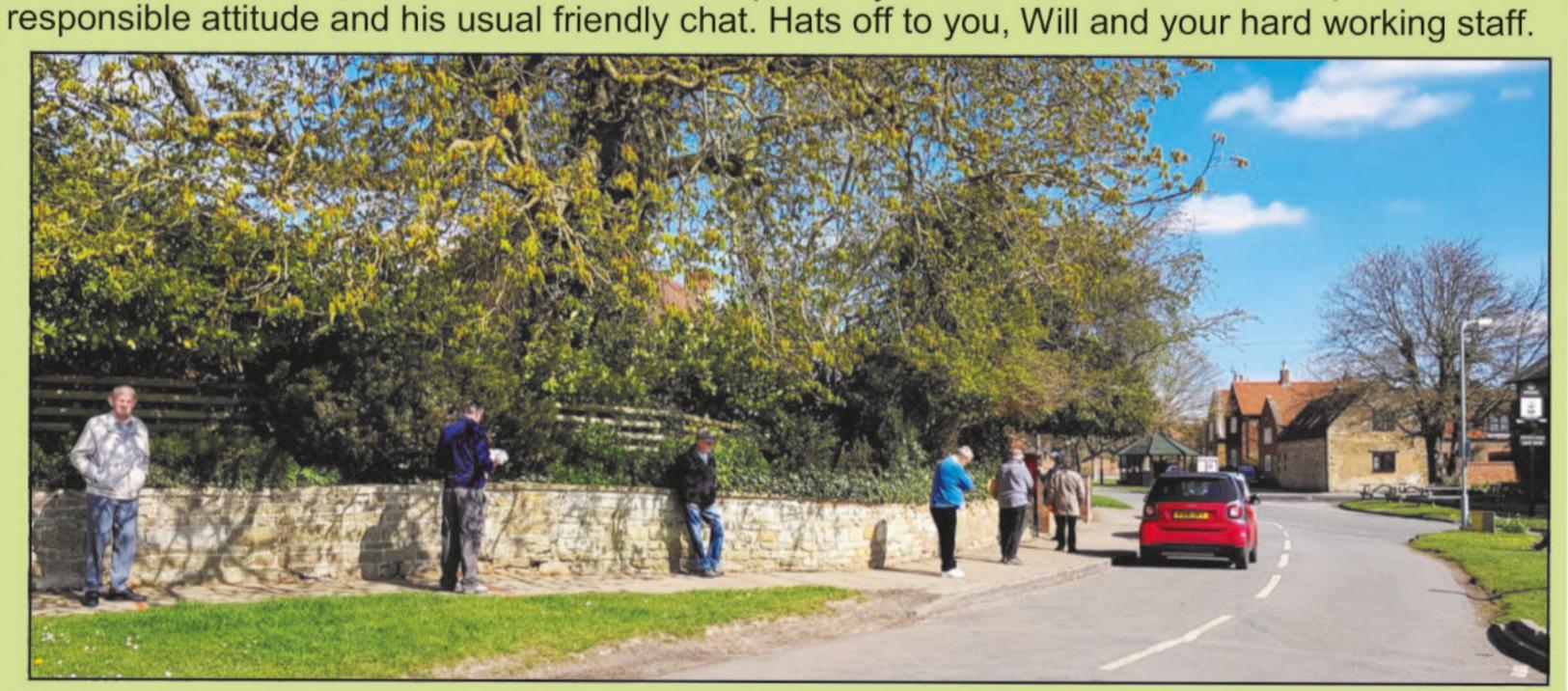
No. 226 June/July 2020

shop and Vine Cottage. He did all of this, and probably more, with a cheerful smile, a





As the pandemic struck, Will leapt into action. Having kept an eagle eye on the news he knew that he had to do all he could to help the people of Allington and Sedgebrook shop in safety and keep well. He drafted in help to build a strong wooden porch in front of the shop doorway to be the new counter; had a wash basin installed at the gate for hand washing; marked out safe distancing indicators for queuing customers; created a one way system; set up an online or telephone ordering service - 'click and collect' or delivery; did everything he could to stock the shop with the necessary groceries and instigated an easy way for people to collect daily newspapers. Turning his attention to our general wellbeing and encouraging positivity, he invited one and all to be creative and add pictures, poems and photos etc to his collection on the railings outside the



Unsung heroes

During the lockdown in Allington we began to realise how fortunate we are to live in this village. We are surrounded by fields and footpaths to walk without breaking the isolation rules, and most of us have gardens for ourselves and the children. We have a food shop; a pub providing take-away meals; and an amazing team of 'unsung heroes' who have seen the gap, stepped in and just got on with the task.

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to those heroes:

- The refuse collectors (bin men to you and me...although you don't have to be man these days) who have unfailingly turned up every week to collect our rubbish
- Our postman, Drew who does a stirling job every day with a smile - Frontline workers, Dr Anna Cheetham at Grantham, Senior Nurse Sophie at QMC
- Carers, Mel Buxton, Joy Newton, Tracy Barrett
- Key workers, Sally Reynolds, Janet Morton, Helen Jackson

- Claire Kitchener, the manager at Allington Gardens, who has

unfailingly notified the appropriate contacts of those in need, in danger or lonely who need support and assistance. She has never stopped in her efforts to support her residents. - Volunteers, Sue Marvin, assisted by Derek Hughes, has collected prescriptions on a regular basis in order to reduce footfall at the surgery. To date they have collected prescriptions for in excess of 80 people.

- David Doel has shopped daily, collected papers and offered general support to all and has unfailingly taken on any task required. Are there more to add to this list? Perhaps you could let us know. It seems that most of the villagers whether mentioned or not have become united in supporting each other through these very strange and weird times. As we said initially, we are really very grateful that we live in Allington.





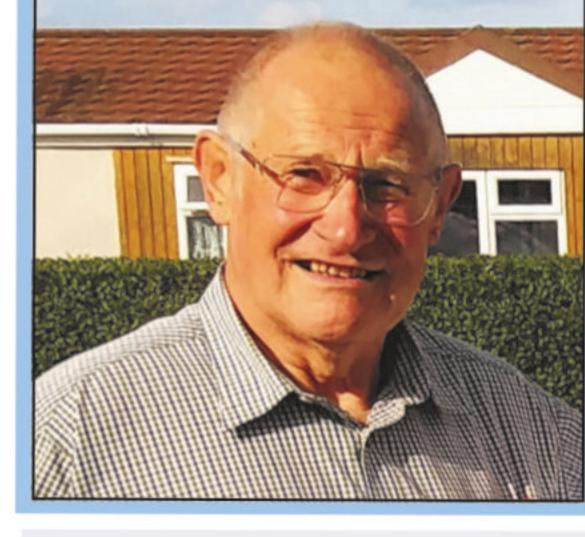
Our trusty refuse team and postman Drew. On Saturday 25th April Drew dressed up with a purpose. A postman in Nottingham invited his colleagues across the East Midlands to dress up to raise money for the NHS after one of his colleagues contracted Covid19.

Allington COVID-19 Help Line

At the start of the lockdown to protect the NHS, Allington Parish Council set up a help network of volunteers to step in to help those in the community who are vulnerable, isolating, or shielding.

Our volunteer group has swollen to twenty-eight villagers willing to step up and help. It must be said though, not all have yet had the call. This I think is testament to the fact that everyone in the village is doing all they can to look after their neighbours and others that may be needing help. Thus far approximately 50 requests for assistance have been received, ranging from collection of shopping, help with booking grocery deliveries, and prescription collection. Not as many as may have been expected, but further evidence of villagers looking after each other, this is truly heartening. It appears that we are going to be in lockdown for some time to come. Please keep in mind that our helpers can only respond to your requests so if you need help, call Cllr Mike Mould on 07779746135 or 01400281977. Your request will be noted, and you will be advised which volunteer will contact you to arrange the help you need. If you would like to be a volunteer, provided you are under 70 and in good health with no underlying conditions, give Mike a call. Lastly A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS

A huge thank you to Cllr Mike Mould who set up and is running this help line and to Heather Nuttall for her unstinting help and support.



Sedgebrook Community Support

In Sedgebrook we don't have any community facilities that are open daily. We have St Lawrence Church and the social club, both of which are currently closed. With only 137 houses in the parish, we are quite a small village with a population ranging from the elderly who live alone, to various family groups with children of all ages and younger adults. When the lockdown was first announced, I took it upon myself to deliver flyers to each house in the main village (apologies to the outliers - I never did get that far!) giving details on how to get help via my phone or email and asking for anyone who might be willing to volunteer to help to come forward. Over 30 responded to the call to arms and a group of people was set up who can be called upon at any time. It has been used a few times, but people in Sedgebrook are proving to be resilient and self-reliant with good support from their neighbours and friends. Quite a bit of information also started coming my way, so I decided to use the email system already in place to get the information out into the village. This email soon morphed into a daily bulletin, giving updates from the government (via our parish council), details on where to shop online and who was delivering to Sedgebrook - all sorts and everything! Later I decided to catalogue the information on a website so I used our company website that was dormant to set up a community hub. The website hosts a huge variety of information, including recipes, quizzes and a gallery of photos. We set up a couple of competitions to keep villagers engaged – a photo competition, judged by professional photographer Jim Evans and a Garden Art competition, with villagers making art out of what they have lying around! If you need help, my contact details are telephone: 01949 844114 or 07962 189397 email: sedgebrookvillage@gmail.com Also use this email address if you would like to subscribe to the daily up-

dates. Please look at the website: www.abbeyfarm.net Both the emails and website will carry on post-lockdown, albeit in a different form – and certainly not every day! Sedgebrook has truly come together as a community in its usual quiet and unobtrusive way to support each other through these troubling times and it is a place I am very proud to call home. Stay safe Sam



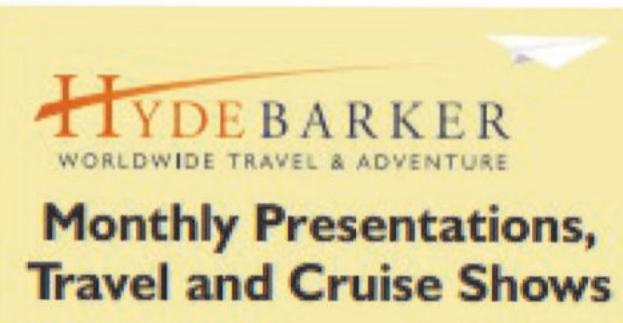
Winners of the photo competition:

- Class 1 Animals and Wildlife: James Tupper Noodle in the Park
- Class 2 Landscapes: Lynne Robson Canal Bridge Class 3 Flora and Fauna: Clare Tupper - Ladybird
- Class 4 People: Sam Wade Surveying the Farm
- Class 5 Holidays: Ian & Sue Pykett Wells-Next-The-Sea Class 6 Wildcard: James Tupper - The Park Before Lockdown

Ofsted Report Earlier this year, before the lockdown, the school was rated 'good' by Ofsted. The report said: 'Pupils get a well-rounded education that is nothing less than good. Teachers show them how to read well from an early age. Pupils learn to write with creativity and to calculate with accuracy. The behaviour and attitudes of pupils are exceptional.' Headteacher, Leanne Barr said: "We were very proud to receive such a glowing report following our Ofsted visit and feel that the inspectors captured our school perfectly. The lead inspector said that he hadn't awarded an Outstanding Grade for Behaviour and Attitudes since 2016, so gaining this was a real testament to our wonderful Allington with sedgebrook children and their commitment to being kind, having fantastic manners and really caring about their own learning. Thank you to everyone concerned for the invaluable part they play in keeping our small village school thriving." Well done to everyone at the school.





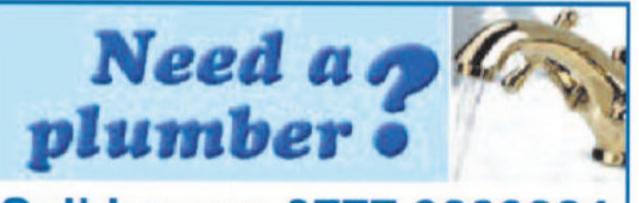


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Wednesday 7.45am - 6.30pm
Thursday 7.45am - 6.30pm
Friday 7.45am - 6.30pm
Saturday 9am - 5pm

9am - 1pm

Sunday



STORIES FROM THE LOCKDOWN

LockDownLoad

It started out as a night camp out for the NHS Big Camp Out. But we got a little carried away as a result of us having gigs cancelled and China having her first trip to Glastonbury cancelled, so we thought let's have our own festival. We decided to call it LockDownLoad. A 'main stage' was created with a projector and a big top tent - the TV. We only played live outdoor performances of artists we have seen. We

even had security in the form of the dogs.

Full line-up

Green Day, Foo Fighters, Frank Carter and the Rattlesnakes, Status Quo, Five finger death punch, ELO, Starsailor, The Cranberrries, Billy Ocean, Richard Ashcroft, Keane, Idles, The Levellers, Rick Astley, Undertones, Manic Street Preachers, Special guest on

Friday night for the sound check were Queen. Cheers, Jason



Jack and Josh taking part in the Dance on your Doorstep event.

Sadly no dancing on May Day for Allington Morris - the first time in 30 years that they haven't performed outside the Welby.



My Lockdown

My Lockdown began a few weeks earlier than most, as I had a foot operation on 5th March. The first two weeks I was allowed up to the bathroom only and had to keep my foot elevated. So I wasn't going far my eldest daughter stayed with me on the first night and my younger daughter came up the following weekend to help me. A friend also came and stayed and, as she knew I was not going to be off dancing anytime soon, she brought a ball of wool and a crochet hook. "Ummm, what do I do with this?" I laughed, "I have never crocheted anything in my life!" So she taught me a basic stitch and away we went. Was this the pair that go off to rock concerts and love live music, sitting on the sofa with a ball of wool each, what had become of us? With my daughter, Becky, pregnant with a long awaited daughter, her first baby, my idea was a baby blanket. Ordering online, I was able to make a blanket with sparkly white baby wool with a pink edge. Unfortunately I also caught the dreaded COV19. As I wasn't going anywhere because of using crutches, I'm still at a loss to how I managed to become infected as none of my visitors have been ill. However, after a few poorly days I recovered.

But on the positive side, I can now crochet, I'm almost back to full health and I'm able to walk my best friend, Digby, my dog. *Linda Fall*

Osbornes Stuck in Tenerife

Allington News received an email from Julie Osborne on 13th April describing their 'predicament' during the lockdown.

"We came out to Tenerife for an extended holiday but our return flight was cancelled so we are now here for the foreseeable!

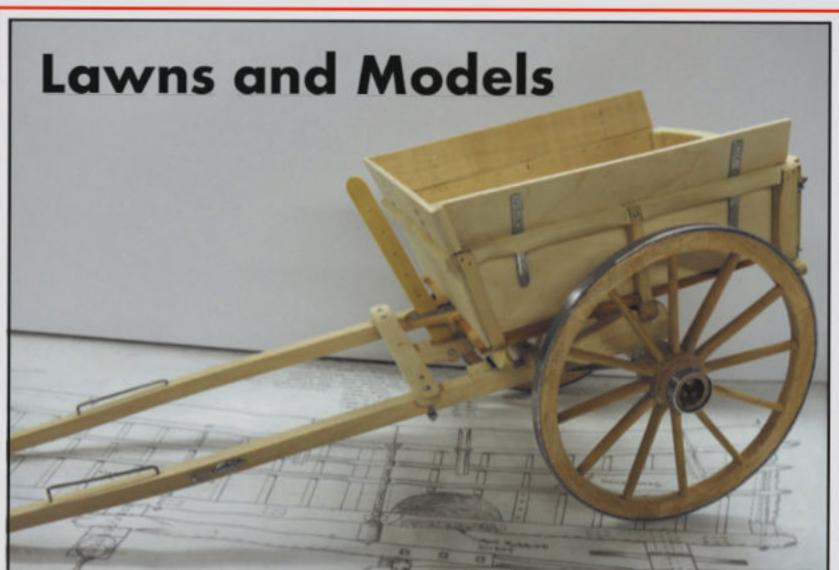
My husband Tony - who has played at the Allington Festival - has decided to do gigs live on Facebook (tonyomusic) from the back bedroom, for anyone who is interested. Well Allington seems to be!! Tony, until recently, was in a Beatles tribute band The Fab 4.

His sets are a real mix of songs from Eagles and Elton John to Chris Rea

and he takes requests. He is now also entertaining everyone on the complex here - from the balcony! Paul Haley started a Virtual Welby a few weeks ago and has had to get everyone to start using Zoom to join in. He has helped no end of people and they are now in touch with family and friends using this technology thanks to Paul. Some people in the village are now using this technology to cast Tony's gigs onto their televisions! I'm pretty sure most people didn't know how to do any of these things beforehand."



As we go to print Julie and Tony are still in Tenerife – how awful for them!



My wife and I are
extremely grateful to the
help given us by Dave
Doel and Sue Marvin.
Dave has been a
godsend, nothing is too
much trouble for him.
When all this is over I
shall have to find some
way to recompense him.
Sue Marvin I also depend
on, for collecting my
medications from Long
Bennington. A very big

thank you to them both. I am in the most vulnerable group and am confined to home for the foreseeable future and as my wife does not drive that means she is also very much grounded. I am very fortunate in that I can look after my garden, and have spent quite a bit of time renovating my lawns. Hopefully with this drop of rain my efforts should be soon repaid. I also have my hobby of making scale model horse drawn vehicles and I have practically finished one model (see photo) of a South Cornwall tip cart. I am quite intrigued by it as it is very small and is lightly built and wonder if it was made to carry seaweed from the shore, a bulky but relatively light load. Every component on the model is handmade and I am particularly pleased with the wheels which, only 5 1/2 inches in diameter are made using the same wood as the original full size model (ash rim, oak spokes and elm Nave) and run very true, no wobble at all. I already have my next project lined up and have started preparing some of the wood. It is a model of a South Lincolnshire waggon and it will keep me busy for a few more weeks. I do not have time to brood or get bored. John Castle

Car Rally Extraordinaire

Owners of sports cars living in Allington decided to form a car club and called it Allington Sports Car Owners Club (ASCOC) An initial meeting was arranged for Sunday 26th April when a drive out to a country pub for Sunday lunch was planned...then lockdown reared its head and it had to be cancelled. However, it was re-arranged for the same day in line with lockdown rules. All the owners parked their cars on their drives from 12noon until 2pm and sat alongside them with picnics (as at a car show) and then each person took their daily walk – following a schedule provided by Terry Carney, which made sure that no groups were formed and everyone kept themselves and others at a safe distance.







200 Club Winners

SPECIAL MENTION HERE TO JUDY GRUMMITT a winner at last - committee member and 200 Club member since day one. YESSSSSSSSSS!!!!!!!

remember not everyone has Judy's luck they win more often

April

1st Prize £35

2nd Prize £20

3rd Prize £15

4th Prize £10

5th Prize £5

6th Prize £5

Anthony Scott

Cliff Wilkins

Sian Lynch

Victoria Withington

Sarah Wright

May
Judy Grummitt **
Mick Cant
Norma Bratt
J Brewin
Anne Tooms
Keith Clarke

FROM THE AN ARCHIVES Twenty years ago in May 2000 the Allington News carried the following stories:

George Charles Hopewell Tucker celebrated his 100th birthday. George moved to Allington Gardens in 1972 with Florence his wife. He had seen the world with the Navy and was mentioned in dispatches for his bravery. Apparently, the pair ran B&B's in Bournemouth and Ilfracombe before moving to Allington. Helen Taylor retired from her post as teacher at Allington with Sedgebrook Primary school after 21 years of service in which she played a major role in moving the school forward to meet the challenges of 21st century. Footpath No3 had been reopened after being unpassable for years with new signage and stiles created. This is the path which runs out from the back of the playing field crossing three small fields before cutting diagonally across a large field close to a derelict building at the end of Glebe Farm track, eventually coming out on Sewstern Lane (Viking Way). (Still walkable today)

Thirty years ago in May 1990 the Allington News contained the following: The under 14 Allington Football team's season was reviewed. An 'excellent

The under 14 Allington Football team's season was reviewed. An 'excellent season' was the verdict of coach Howard Robinson. 7 games were won, 1 drawn and 2 lost in the under 14 age group whilst 6 were lost in the combined 14 and 15 age group. The team had reached the Newark under 14 youth league play off where they would meet Bingham. Following this they would meet Bingham again in the league cup final. Sedgebrook celebrated the opening of its new bridge. According to Lincolnshire Highways a survey revealed repairs were required and it needed realigning so as not to prove a hazard. At a cost of £31,000 a new bridge was constructed. It seems serious crime was a problem in 1990... One electric Hoover was missing from the Doctors' waiting room. It was last seen at the pantomime! Anyone checked with Cinders?

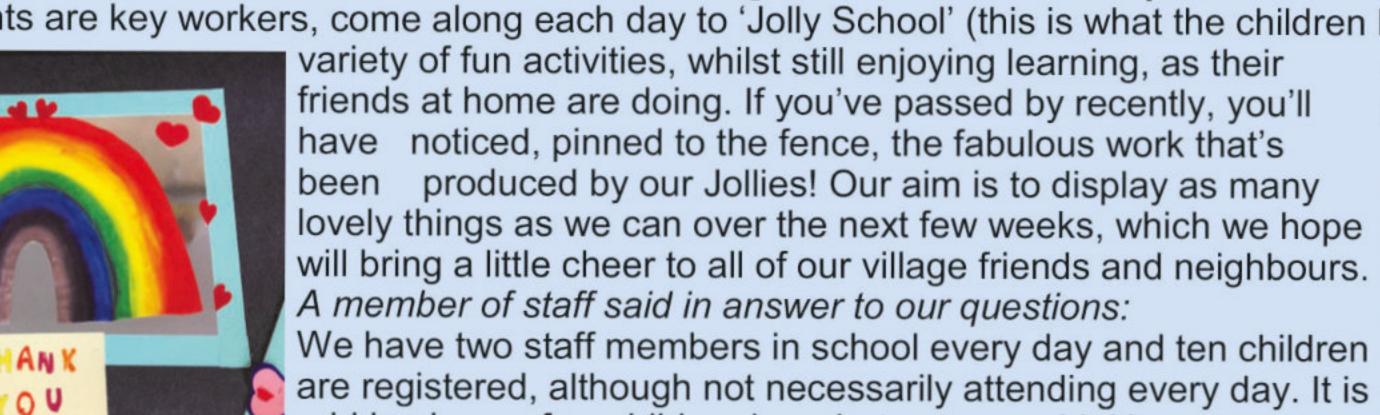


Contact: Pam Plummer 200 Club organiser 01400 281106
The draw is paid bimonthly with the publication of the AN

SCHOOL NEWS 'Jolly School'

NHS

In these, the strangest of times, we at school are doing all that we can to help our school family feel happy and safe. Some children, whose parents are key workers, come along each day to 'Jolly School' (this is what the children have named it) and are experiencing a huge



We have two staff members in school every day and ten children are registered, although not necessarily attending every day. It is odd having so few children here but as you said, it's a strange but special time for us all. Carrying on through the Easter

holiday was completely the right thing to do and no hardship for us at all.



We, at the Allington News, had an insight into the online schooling when we were asked by Mrs Cowley to talk to her class about the Allington News and how it is put together as part of their topic for this term entitled 'Postcards from Lincolnshire'. During a meeting with Mrs Cowley via 'Zoom' Rich and Terry

came up with a list of questions, answered on another 'Zoom' recording, this time involving Mrs Rose as well. After this we set the children a challenge - to email a piece for the Allington News about the most exciting, unusual or interesting thing they had done during the lockdown. We received so many lovely replies that we have had to

Class 3 children have been finding lots of 'exciting, unusual and interesting' things to do during the lockdown. Some of them have been celebrating birthdays. Jake had a lovely day, he had 'chocolate for breakfast' and chose 'yummy chips' for dinner while Finn helped his brother celebrate, with a 'surprise house party' and party games with family, some of whom live overseas. Harley received video calls from his family, who sang 'Happy Birthday' and he enjoyed

> touch with family and friends and found out that he and Arthur had been for walks to the same place on the same day! Meanwhile Seb found 'lockdown is better when you can Face Time friends' and had played Lego along with his friends. Katy had set up a 'home restaurant' as her family were missing going out for meals. She West Restaurant. Charlie N has a new special friend – Winnie the cat, who has an extra toe on each paw! With the help of his sister, Harry cut out coloured paper hang in trees in Sedgebrook. With the help of his daddy, Alex built a working robot. He said that 'it has been a good science coding project.' Keeping up with her ballet

following lessons her teacher put online. Bike riding each day, finding new routes and seeing the wildlife has been Taylor's favourite experience while Ava's family discovered three lakes they didn't know about on one of their long walks - she also met a pet ferret and now would like one herself. Another cycling story from Eleanor told how she had learnt to ride her bike. She wrote 'I had to balance and pedal at the same time' which 'was tricky at first' but she managed it. Olly cycled an amazing 53 miles one week and, around Belvoir Castle, even 'managed to get up the hill in one go!' Having placed four duck eggs in an incubator before the lockdown, Theo has been able to see them hatch. He said they 'all grew up quickly. Now we give them baths, walks and cuddles.' Arthur became interested in photography and has been busy taking photos of wildlife and flowers when he's out exercising. Lastly we have world record breakers at Allington with

Sedgebrook School! Alice and Max both took part in 'a world record attempt called Camp at Home, with other Scouts and Cubs around the world.' In the morning 'we had a Zoom call with my Cub pack and I found out that we had broken a world record!' (Alice) Max wrote that on March 24th he had also 'helped Joe Wicks achieve the world record of most people viewing a live streamed workout with 955,158 households taking

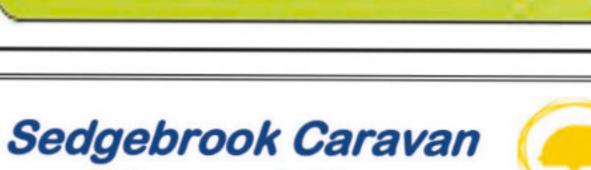




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ON THE GREEN

Regrettably, On The Green, scheduled for early July, has been cancelled. We will announce revised dates when we can but this may be something that will have to be postponed until next year. Any tickets already purchased will be valid for the revised dates. If anyone would like a refund now please get in touch by messenger or email admin@allingtononline.co.uk

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Allington Post Office Village Hall Friday 9 -12 noon (Tuesday 1-4pm to be confirmed) Please use it and ensure it remains open now and always

VE DAY 75th Anniversary









Mobile services: Allington Post Office based at the village hall: Friday 9am-12 noon (Tuesday 1-4.pm to be confirmed) Milk round Dairy Crest 01476 563733 Dry cleaning and shoe repairs – Allington Village Stores Arthur's Fish & Chips Van Wednesday Allington Gardens 3.30 - 4.10pm Sedgebrook Green 6.50 -7.10pm Wet fish van Allington Green 12 noon Thurs

MANY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES AND PHOTOS FOR THIS EDITION. Our Flickr account has many more photos we didn't have room for... Visit Flickr, search under 'Allington News', choosing the 'people' option, and click on 'Allington News'



Elmer the elephant made using plastics milk bottles ... aren't they gorgeous!

'Home School' Whilst not in school the teachers are busy planning work to deliver online, emailing pupils and receiving finished pieces of work from the children. The teachers work hard to keep contact upbeat and supportive and have the wellbeing of the children at heart.

were recorded giving a brief explanation of the work involved in the production of the paper. This recording was emailed to the children of Class 3 who

consolidate what the children told us as we don't have the space for everything.

a Domino's pizza and had a homemade Ninjago birthday cake. Others also enjoyed Face Timing. Charlie R kept in

dressed up with her brother 'as a cowboy and cowgirl and served dinner' at the Wild hearts to make a rainbow in his bedroom window – 162 hearts! Erica was busy with rainbows too, making rainbow branch decorations with sticks and coloured cotton to lessons was on Chloe's mind. She has been practising using her new bar and

part.' A double world record holder!

ALLINGTON GARDENS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION REPORT MAY 2020

2020 has turned out to be a very strange year with our lives having been taken over by the Covid 19 virus. The great thing about this pandemic is the way the community has got together, with volunteers coming forward to help the vulnerable cope with their isolation. Sue Marvin, with the help of Derek Hughes, has been going to Long Bennington Pharmacy nearly every day, collecting prescriptions for not only

Andrea Harrison's rainbow Ted

residents of the Gardens, but also those in other areas of the village. Apparently approximately 80 people have come forward requiring prescriptions - goodness knows how many trips this has taken! Dave Doel has helped some residents by picking up their daily newspapers and occasionally shopping for them, invaluable for those affected. Claire from the Office has been working hard in the background identifying those who are vulnerable and organising food parcels and care for them. Many residents are helping their neighbours, too. Thank you all for caring for our community.

Of course, we like other communities, have those who think the Government rules do not apply to them! I hope none of them are infected with the virus and give it to our vulnerable residents!

We have other residents who are making a difference by making items to help with the infection control or to cheer up the villagers. Andrea Harrison has been knitting rainbow bears (including the big one on the railings around the cross), Claire Thornicroft has been making cloth face masks and Paula Hinton has been making the bags for nurses to put their dirty uniforms in and raised money by camping out on her drive.

We do have a couple of frontline carers on the Gardens who have been affected by the virus but hopefully they are recovered now. We thank them so much for their conscientiousness during these hard times. Thursday at 8pm is

full of the sounds of clapping, pan banging, shouting and singing on the Gardens to show our appreciation to all the key workers: NHS, carers, posties, refuse collectors, delivery drivers, shop assistants and many more who are working to make our lives easier.

We have a couple of celebrations to report. The first one was the 65th Wedding Anniversary of Derek and Hazel Dodds, who managed to celebrate remotely with their neighbours. Also, Sue Marvin and Derek Hughes celebrated their virtual wedding day by facetiming their family and enjoying a bottle of champagne in their garden. The legal side will wait until Contact residentassociation9@gmail.com for any information. the country is moving again.



Sadly friends and family could not join me

on my 75th birthday, but at least I did not

have to share my birthday cake!

Great Grandparents

As isolation came into force, John and

Joy Hart became great-grandparents for

the first time. Twins Eva and Jacob were

born on 23rd March. We can't wait to

have a cuddle - hope they are not sitting

by then!

Allington **Parish Council Annual Meeting** 20th May 2020 via Zoom conferencing

Chairman - Cllr Plummer re-elected. Vice Chairman - Cllr Sharp re-elected.

Committees - to remain the same. Parish Council Meetings - to be held via Zoom conferencing until guidelines change.

Policies - to be reviewed in July. Income and Expenditure - 2019/20 resolved/approved for external audit.

Donations - same as last year. Playing Field MUGA to remain

locked until guidelines change. Unauthorised access - possible police action if it continues.

Community Wood - tree surgeon to check for ash dieback. Planning applications – no objections: Lofty Trees, crown reduction 2-3 metres; 44

Park Rd - ground/ first floor extension; woodland at Home Farm House - fell 2 trees. VIEW FROM THE PEW Holy Trinity Allington

March 12th - a lovely sunny morning before lockdown. Allington and Sedgebrook School Reception and Year 1 children came to the church and to visit the Peace Garden. They came to see what had happened to the bulbs they planted

back in October. To start with we had a drink and a biscuit in the church - lots and lots of excited chatter. We then went out to the Peace



Garden where the children were so fascinated to see the bulbs in flower. They saw daffodils and crocus and they knew which bulbs were theirs and where they had planted them. They also wanted to know where the worms were as they had been the highlight of their visit in October! At the beginning of that week we had also purchased and planted many shrubs in the Peace

Sue Marvin and Derek Hughes shared

champagne and exchanged rings but

sadly the wedding of course had to be

cancelled

Garden - we just hope they survive the lockdown. Sue Ashby and her family very kindly decorated the church gates with poppies for VE day. We are very grateful to them and they looked stunning.

Even in these worrying times we have been able to make a little progress with our maintenance problems at the church. We now have the necessary certificate from the Archdeacon covering the substantial maintenance work that has to be done. Quotes have been obtained and our advisor John Manterfield has applied to various charities to fund these works. We are waiting to hear the results and will update you when we can.

VILLAGE HALL NEWS The Outreach Post Office is open on Fridays 9 -12 noon and sometime in June it will be opening again on Tuesdays 1-4pm (date to be confirmed). The library remains closed. The hall will re-open once it is deemed safe and the date will be advertised in a variety of places. Hoping that you are all keeping well and managing to avoid the virus we look forward to the time when we can all meet up again and resume our normal activities.

Copy deadline for Allington News 227 Aug/Sept issue is Friday 17th July

If YOU know of any news, events or you have an idea for an article please email Allington News at ...

allingtonnews@outlook.com

or get in touch with any member of the committee. A plea to all contributors When submitting articles/news/posters - PLEASE submit in Word our preferred format. If you submit photos with your articles please email them as attachments in jpeg format and not embedded in

the article itself. Many thanks. We look forward to receiving your news.

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WIKING SQUARES

2020 started off with a blast in the Viking Squares calendar of events. We held our 36th birthday party on Tuesday 7th January, which most of our members attended. We had a lovely buffet provided by Sainsbury's and danced to three callers. A wonderful night all round. Vikings had a number of events lined up for the coming weeks.



To our utmost delight we had managed to obtain the services of an Australian caller in mid May. This was indeed a great achievement as he only had limited availability on his British tour. Before this, for the first time at Easter, we were set to do a camp out event and then again over the late bank holiday weekend in May, at Colsterworth, which would have been

our 10th year of doing this. Of course, all these have had to be cancelled and we are all very sad, but realise this needed to happen. We did however hold our Birthday Dance on Saturday 14th March after much thought and discussion with callers and club members as to whether to go ahead, as this terrible virus had begun to show its ugly head. This dance was very well attended by dancers from near and far. Our caller was well known and tickets had sold out. Little did we know that this would be the last square dance for some considerable time, not only for Viking Squares but all over the country. So square dancers are missing all the dancing, the social interaction with others, and the mental and physical stimulation and of course, the cups of tea and chat on Tuesday evenings. For those with the Whatsapp application on their smart phones we have set up a group, simply to keep in touch and let others share what we are doing to occupy our time. We're also keeping in touch with regular phone calls or emails and have a Vikings facebook page, all to keep folks in the loop. Painting, decorating, gardening and quizzes seem to be top of the list to keep ourselves busy in these very difficult times.

DOWN ON THE FARM

On April 9th Sharon and Will Cragg wrote:

It's been a tough old go over the winter and in to the spring even before the Covid 19 lockdown. We had a dog attack in the sheep, killing one and injuring 3 more. Then we were flooded out, the extent of which we've never seen before. Then the lockdown; farmers are classed as key workers so are allowed to travel to their fields and look after animals and work their fields. They still have to maintain social distancing.

Although we were short of grass, because of the wet weather, we luckily had a stock of sheep feed in the barn and plenty of hay. We're grateful to Tim Wade for letting us have some mangels for the sheep, though if we get desperate enough we can eat 'em as well we've found out (as happened in WW2). We have managed to get our fertilizer spread and rolling and harrowing done now it has dried up a bit. Ironically, most farmers could now do with a shower of rain! Our main worry at the moment is how we are going to organise the sheep shearing, which happens at the end of May/beginning of June usually, if the lockdown continues and maintain social distancing. We are going to seek NFU/Defra guidance about that. Take care and stay safe.

Update received 8th May: After consulting the National Farmers' Union about how we should organize ourselves for clipping the sheep, we actually did the shearing with all of us keeping our social distance on May 7th. The beginning of May is early for us to clip, but as the Australian and Kiwi shearers who come over to the UK annually are unlikely to be here this summer due to restrictions, we decided to get it done as soon as we could. After the wet winter we thought the sheep would look awful once they got their fleeces off but actually they don't look too bad at all and in good condition. That must be down to the large amount of hay, sheep concentrate and mangels they've munched! Somebody told us mangels are 98% water - all we can say is that the other 2% must be good stuff! There's a couple of 'skinny minnies' now they've got their shirts off, but there always is and they'll fatten up eventually!

Library Van Dates Currently no Visits



Community Library Opening Times Currently Closed

BUS TIMETABLE Monday to Friday only Centrebus 24



Centrebus 6 8.45 Allington Green Peach Lane

8.47 Via Barrowby/Dysart Road Grantham Bus Station 9.05

16.30 **Grantham Bus Station** 16.41 Trent Road, Meres 16.52 Downtown 17.00 Allington Green

Grantham Bus Station 11.30 Via Dysart Road/Barrowby Allington Green 11.47 Peach Lane 11.49

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More information available on Lincolnshire County Council website or from Allington Gardens site office.

