

Sutton Bonington

Normanton on Soar

Kingston on Soar

VILLAGE NEWS

May and June 2020

When the current lock-down arrived we wondered whether there was any point in trying to put together an issue for May and June. However, there was and here it is - and not just a list of predictable cancellations! Special thanks go to our loyal band of volunteers for delivering each of our issues across the year but this one above all others. Their help is very much appreciated. Keep safe. And here's to better times ahead!

NEW DATE FOR THE GALLOPING GOURMET! This will be Saturday 19th September. In the meantime, if you would like to sign up as a host or have any questions, please contact Liz on lizbudgen@gmail.com or Richard on richardshore6@gmail.com.

PARK LANE BUS STOP BOOK-SWAP Given the effort that went into constructing it, how sad it was (at least for now) to abandon the Bus Stop Book Swap on Park Lane due to its being a potentially very fertile source of virus transmission. ***Please do not put books in the shelter.***

SUTTON BONINGTON SHOW The Show's committee feels it is too early to make a decision about this year's event but, for now, we'll stay positive in the hope that the next three or four months will see a gradual return to normality!

GARDEN WALKABOUT It is unlikely that we will be able to run the *Garden Walkabout* in the usual way on the planned dates of 20th and 21st June. If possible we would like to hold the event later in the year, especially as all our gardens will look better than ever after all the attention they are getting at the moment! Watch this space...

THE METHODIST CHURCH nationally has stated that all public worship services, gatherings and meetings should be suspended. Therefore, in order to comply with this, there will be no events or activities of any kind at the Methodist Church in the village until further notice.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK As all of our thoughts are on the Covid-19 situation, we wanted to share an update on Christian Aid's response. The health and safety of communities is of the utmost importance to us and we are monitoring the situation on a daily basis. In the current circumstances, sadly, house-to-house collections and delivery-only collections will not go ahead. In particular, along with many churches, events such as *Big Brekkies* or *Lent lunches* will also have to be cancelled. However, keep an eye open for replacement activities!

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Hopefully the Village Show will go ahead but, at present, it's too early to say. However, if you would like to take part and plan ahead, here is some advance notice of the classes where a bit of forethought just might result in a winning entry!

Knitting : Class 73 : Children's Mittens. Class 74 : Six-inch Knitted Square. ***Painting or Drawing*** : Class 75 : Portrait - Human. ***Photograph*** : Class 76 : Water Class 77 : Seasonal Flowers (four photos mounted on one card). ***Children's Classes*** : Class 82 : *One* photograph of a tree or trees. Class 89 : Anti-Litter Poster done on a computer.

The full schedule will be available on the Village Show website, the Horticultural Society website or from the Post Office. It will also be delivered with the next issue of the Village News – July/August.

SB MUSIC SOCIETY Although we cannot meet in person for a while, there are many ways we can help with musical exploits during isolation. If anyone is looking for sheet music for any instrument or voice during this time then please don't hesitate to e-mail stymis@nottingham.ac.uk . Good places to access free sheet music are imslp.org for more classical pieces and musescore.org for anything else. Hopefully, ensembles will begin again in September or as soon as possible from that point. We run four ensembles; SB Singers, SB Symphony Orchestra, SB Folk Band and SB Big Band. All of our ensembles are unauditioned and open to community members as well as students. More information can be found on our website at <https://suttonbonington.wixsite.com/musicsoc> Please email stymis@nottingham.ac.uk for any more information and answers to questions.

INSPIRE CULTURE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL are committed to the wellbeing of staff and customers during the current coronavirus pandemic. All *Inspire* venues will be closed until further notice. This includes all Nottinghamshire County Libraries, Archives, Arts, 16-18 Study Programmes, Adult, Community and Family Learning. This is in line with Nottinghamshire County Council's response to government guidance on social distancing and plans to focus on essential services.

LADIES' WALKING GROUP Due to the current situation with the coronavirus, it has been decided to suspend our walks for the time being. As soon as the situation improves we hope to resume and have some nice walks planned. Many thanks for your support and understanding. Pat Gassor, Walks Co-ordinator.

SUTTON BONINGTON LUNCH CLUB There'll be no meeting in May and, beyond that, it's not at all clear when the group will be able to start dining again but Sue James will let you know as soon as it looks likely. Hopefully, all will be back to normal before the boat trip in August. Everyone keep safe and hope to see you all soon!

ST MICHAEL'S and ST ANNE'S CHURCHES Regrettably, both churches have had to be permanently closed. This is the first time since 1208, when King John refused to accept Pope Innocent III's appointment of Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury and churches were closed for five years. Won't be for that long this time - hopefully! Some government advice implies that churches can stay open for private prayer but the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, after taking expert advice, have decided that this will ***not*** be allowed. All services, weddings and baptisms have been suspended and funerals may only take place at the graveside or in a crematorium chapel. All services and events have been cancelled for now. The Rev. Tim Parker, of East Leake, is live-streaming Sunday services from East Leake Rectory at 10.00am and 6.00pm. You can find these at www.eastleakechurch.org. By the time you read this, there may be news of restrictions being lifted and life returning to normal but we must never forget the kindness and dedication of so many people.

Needless to say, the Church Fete planned for 17th May is cancelled.

SOAR VALLEY U3A has suspended general meetings with invited guest speakers for the duration of the coronavirus crisis. Please bear with us. A further announcement will be made when meetings can be resumed. *Soar Valley U3A (University of the Third Age) provides relaxed learning and leisure activities for retired people in your area. For more information, phone Membership Secretary Marilyn Wood on 01509 853459 or visit our website - <http://u3asites.org.uk/soar-valley>*

KINGSTON-on-SOAR VILLAGE HALL All *Live and Local* events have been cancelled until the end of May which means that both *Kiriki Club* and *Bush Gothic* performances will not now take place.

SUTTON BONINGTON AND DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB For any further information, especially regarding membership or our open evenings, please contact Rod (07785 263152).

SWAN COURT The Sutton Bonington and Normanton-on-Soar Social Services Association has a vacancy at Swan Court. The property is a one-person bungalow which comprises sitting room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. It has gas central heating and an emergency communications system. There is a warden who visits the site daily and is able to assist tenants in certain circumstances. The site has a community room for informal gatherings and all the garden and grounds are maintained by the Association. The rent is £175 per fortnight with the tenant being responsible for all utility bills.

These properties are designed for and aimed at older members of society. Potential tenants must already live in either Sutton Bonington or Normanton (or have previously lived in those villages and wish to return) or new residents who would like to live closer to relatives who do live in the villages. If you are interested or know someone who might be please contact Miles Raven (01509 672160) or Rosie Hopkinson (01509 672811).

SPEED LIMIT SIGN AT THE ‘ZOUCH END’ OF PARK LANE

Having asked for it some three months ago, there was no-one more surprised than members of the Parish Council when the wonderful, new speed limit sign miraculously appeared, unannounced, around the beginning of March. Possibly because of the current crisis, nothing more has yet happened but, hopefully, it will do when we're all out of the wood.

A MESSAGE FROM DAVID SMITH, CHAIR OF NORMANTON PARISH COUNCIL

I hope that you are all keeping well during this difficult period. *Please comply with the government's instructions and keep yourself safe at all times.* For up to date advice during the current period please visit www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public or contact Sue Lewis, the parish clerk, on clerk@nospc.parish.email or 07776 458154. Thank you - David Smith (07932 643793)

NORMANTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES will now be displayed on the notice board by Moor Lane Playing Field and the Soar Valley Bus garage. You will also find them on the village's website - www.normanton-on-soar.co.uk/meetings

'THANK YOU' TO N-o-S CORONAVIRUS ASSISTANCE John and Heather Herrington would like to thank everyone who volunteered to help people in Normanton in self-isolation with shopping and fetching medication. There was a magnificent response with over thirty people signing up. Unfortunately, several of the people on the original list have now themselves gone into self-isolation and we send them our best wishes. We have had few requests for help, probably because many people in the village have been making their own arrangements to get support. We thank everyone who is contributing in any capacity to this magnificent effort. When you are vulnerable it makes such a difference to know that there is someone prepared to help in an emergency. Who knows what we will face in the coming days and weeks? If you need help please contact John or Heather on 01509 646240 or e-mail heather.herrington@live.com. Keep safe!

VE DAY COMMEMORATIONS CANCELLED All plans for these commemorations over the weekend of Friday 8th through Sunday 10th May in Sutton Bonington, Normanton and Zouch have been sadly cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

CHRISTIAN AID – AFTERNOON TEA CANCELLED Sadly, Normanton's fundraising Afternoon Tea for Christian Aid Week planned for Wednesday 13th May has been cancelled.

NORMANTON ON SOAR ENVIRONMENT GROUP This group has been established in the village to support existing spaces for nature, create new habitats and complete small tasks around the village. There are lots of different ways to be part of it! Some initial efforts include working with the parish council to form trial areas where native plants will be sown and natural habitats created. Look out for up-coming information signs and blue, heart-shaped markers that are part of the long-term goal to link up public spaces and gardens throughout the village for wildlife. With a strong team of brilliant volunteers, work had begun creating the trial areas but unfortunately the covid-19 crisis has, inevitably, delayed progress. Although the early works on the slipway by The Plough pub are nearly complete, preparations for the corners of the Jubilee Field are taking a little longer and these may not be seeded until the autumn. A monthly local wildlife newsletter for everyone interested will shortly be published and will include photos, sightings and ways to engage with the plants and animals with which we share our village. If you would like to receive these updates, or to get in touch, please e-mail nos.environment@gmail.com.

NORMANTON-on-SOAR SHOP TEMPORARY CLOSURE Due to the Covid-19 crisis, and together with most other retail establishments, the Village Shop will be closed until restrictions are lifted. Our apologies to all our loyal customers for the inconvenience this will cause.

NORMANTON ON SOAR MEN'S ASSOCIATION The visit to Coalville Theatre on Monday 18th May has been cancelled and, at the time of going to press, it was unclear whether the visit on Tuesday 16th June to the Model Railway at the Shuttlewood Clarke Foundation would take place. Updates to follow.

CORONAVIRUS : ST JAMES CHURCH TEMPORARILY CLOSED You will almost certainly know that all church buildings have been closed until further notice, an understandable rationale but, nonetheless, a great shame for a church which is visited regularly for private reflection. However, so that you know that we will be thinking of you and the wider community, there will be lights in the east window of the church every evening. If you would like to visit the churchyard for quiet prayer please keep at least two metres apart from others who may be doing the same. Stuart and Sarah are keeping the churchyard as tidy and welcoming as ever. The book placed in the porch for prayer requests had to be removed because of the danger of virus transmission. Instead, if you would like prayers said for anyone, please contact Brian Archbold (842341). The Parochial Church Council is thinking about ways in which pastoral support can be offered safely so, if you know of anyone who would appreciate a contact, please also phone Brian. Our friends at St Mary's Church, East Leake will continue live streaming their services at 10.00am and 6.00pm on Sundays. If you wish to hear these services, please visit www.eastleakechurch.org

QUIET SPACES AT ST JAMES We are currently unable to have our quarterly Taizé style services with music, readings and quiet time during the coronavirus closure. However, the monthly Julian Group meetings at St James church will continue virtually, providing peace and quiet and time to be still in our busy world. The forthcoming dates are 26th May and 23rd June at 6.30pm. Carolyn and Sue will e-mail the existing group before those dates with poems, prayers, music and suggest that we use them at home as we wish and perhaps at the allotted hour! If you wish to join this group, please e-mail sue.archbold@btinternet.com or carolynmbrock@yahoo.co.uk.

Nationally, Julian Meetings are held online and have proved very successful. They're on Zoom, which is free and easy to use. Bob, who runs them, is running them every week on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:30pm. See the *Events* page on their website (address below) for details of how to join. He is also running an early morning meditation and services of Morning and Evening Prayer (Church of England Common Worship version) Monday – Friday. Please see the *News* section of the website for details. It is worth joining the Julian group as you will get a useful newsletter and access to resources. You can find more information on the website - www.thejulianmeetings.net

SUTTON BONINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL Although school is closed for the vast majority of children, we are providing childcare for some - the children of key workers or children who are considered vulnerable. The children and staff who have been coming in have worked diligently to support those children in school. Social distancing rules as well as regular hand-washing have not impaired much fun being had with the children playing basketball, football, doing a bit of gardening, craft activities and undertaking the daily Joe Wicks workout! The children have been excellent as have their amazing parents who continue to work on the front line to help those in need during this unprecedented coronavirus outbreak.

The parents have been reassured that although their children are missing valuable schooling, we are all in the same boat and teamwork and resilience will get us through this difficult period. Those children who have not been in have been enjoying the sunshine and keeping active but also engaging in online activities that have been set by their teachers. Class e-mails have been set up so that teachers and children can communicate during this difficult closure period. I have seen many examples of excellent work. I have been recording online achievement assemblies to celebrate the learning of the children. This week I praised a young lady who has just learned to ride her bike and another child has fired up her curiosity by researching various biomes and other environmental aspects. We are also running our annual *Easter Egg Making Competition* so if you want to check our progress look at the school Twitter account. I am hoping to fill the notice board outside the school with the children's egg designs so if you happen to be passing, take a look!

Please look after yourselves and your loved ones at this time. Lee Shilton, Head Teacher.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE please to Arnold Goodwin (674563) Christine Elliott (844045) or Geoff Parnell (672639) by Monday 1st June. *This will cover events for the months of July and August.* Our e-mail address is villnews@yahoo.com