Connection Connection

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November 2020 f

f ree to read on-line

Dear Readers,

As I type this, we are heading for another nationwide lockdown and, unfortunately, we have had to make the decision to put the Magazine back online, rather than doing a paper printing.

We did have a timetable and a system which would have allowed us to print and distribute, but alas Boris wasn't listening to us! More than anything, we want to keep everyone safe, so I hope you will agree we have made the right decision.

All this does mean that some of the contents is now out of date or just plain wrong. Please consult the websites etc. of the various organisations to find out the latest information.

For example, in his Letter, John says he is currently in a first tier area - how quickly things change.....

As far as St. John's Church is concerned, I understand that, after 1st November, there will be no services this month. However, the new WEB can open for private prayer, and it is intended to do this every Saturday, 10.00 am - 12 noon. Sadly, no refreshments, but socially distanced chairs!

I would like to thank everyone involved with the Magazine (you know who you are!) for their commitment and sheer willingness to get it done. This month the timing was against us, but we will be back on paper as soon as we can be.

With very best wishes to everyone,

Kate Rissbrook.

http://stjohnsessington.co.uk

Dear Friends

It isn't every day that we have the opportunity to quote a person we know who got it right when they were ranting. Last year after the Conservative government was re-elected, a strong Labour supporter friend of mine shouted in anger "....you see, it'll all end in tears!" How right he was.

As I write, I live in a first tier area. What it may have become by the time you read this, well who knows? How cruel it seems that people just down the road live in a second tier area and have greater restrictions than us. But then, as the saying goes, life isn't fair. Early in my teaching career I was impressed by a talk from a Chinese educator who was in Walsall. Obviously, there was little overlap between the 1970 British education system and that of China. No, it was the principles and personal qualities that he said a good teacher needs that he laid out. He had a phrase that has stuck with me all these years, "What you can't change you have to endure."

He spoke about it at some length. It does not mean, he said, that we should not try to change things that are wrong or need improving. Absolutely not, he was in the UK because his life would have been forfeit had he returned to China. He knew about the difficulty of facing an intractable enemy. How his principles resonated with me. They were not just for teachers, they were for life.

We are facing an intractable enemy now. Yes, our scientists and doctors are working incredibly hard to find a vaccine and better ways to contain the virus, but what about us? How can we overcome it? Well we can't. So we endure the restrictions that are helping to keep us safe. We can't change those. Heads wiser, better informed and with greater authority than us continued..... have told us the way it has to be. So, as we can't change them. we have to endure. BUT.....does that mean we are helpless, just blindly following, unquestioning, resigned to a restricted life? NO.

What we are enduring is the regime that will help us survive as a community. What we do while putting up with this is what defines us. Do we find ways to keep in contact with our friends and family using our phones and computers? Do we find ways to amuse and entertain each other? Do we think about our neighbours, who might not have family or indeed many friends and find the time to have a chat with them? Do we think who might be unable to access electronic media and find out if there is a way we can bring them into the IT loop? If we do some or all of this we are enduring with a good spirit, not just putting up by giving up.

And all this from the wise words of a refugee Chinese educator. I didn't get to speak to him, indeed as a young, naïve and very inexperienced teacher, I was in awe of him and would have been tongue-tied. But if I had the opportunity, knowing what I know now, I would have asked from where he drew his ideas and inspiration. Would it all have come just from his experience? I very much doubt it. No, I think he would tell of an upbringing as a Buddhist. Respect for life and love for others would have been his mantra. Strange how Jesus had the same idea. Not so strange that people who inspire us show in their lives how to put those principles into practice.

Again, just like Jesus they are often persecuted because there is a deep seated fear held by many who have wealth and power of those who say we are all worth the same in God's eyes. Where is the commercial sense in that? Yet time and again in this pandemic emergency, people have shown that they do care for others. They love enough to make the effort, to make a difference.

So, here in this parish, let's endure with dignity those things we cannot change, and fight tooth and nail to improve those things we can.

When we reach the point where we can say, "Phew, its over", let's be sure that we have brought everyone along with us to enjoy the future.

O Lord, grant me the courage to change the things I can change The serenity to accept those I cannot change; And the wisdom to know the difference.

John.

In addition to the names in the St John's Ministry Team, here are a couple of other numbers you can ring as a first point of contact;

Rev Rosemary Biddle	01922 419032
Sue Davenport	01922 495516
Sue Hinks-Caldwell	01922 516450

ST. JOHN'S REGISTERS

Burial of Ashes in St. John's Churchyard

28.8.20 Marryann Coburn (62 years)

18.9.20 Joan Perry (93 years)

Funeral Service & Cremation at Bushbury

6.8.20 Kenneth Palmer (97 years)

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

At this moment we are continuing with our plans to hold our Christmas Tree Festival throughout December. It is even more important this year that our church looks festive to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. So, providing we do not have further restrictions in our area, it will go ahead, commencing on Saturday 28th November, which is the day before Advent Sunday.

Unfortunately we are unable to hold our Christmas Fair, which usually marks the beginning of the Tree Festival, but the church will be open for visitors to view the trees, and if current regulations allow, we shall provide light refreshments in the West

End Build. We will also be holding a Christmas Raffle throughout the month in order to cover the cost of the trees. We shall obviously have to limit the number we can admit into the church or WEB at any one time, so for that reason we shall be open every Saturday up until Christmas.



At this moment the schedule will be as follows – Thursday 26th/ Friday 27th November – trees to be decorated **Saturday 28th November – 1.00 – 3.30 pm Festival open for visitors.**

Following Saturdays (5^{th} , 12^{th} , 19^{th} December) - normal church opening times 10.00 am – 12 noon, **Festival open for visitors**

We have already had a number of responses from businesses and organisations who wish to take part, but there is still time for others who may wish to join us. The theme this year is 'A Christmas Celebration', this is open to your own interpretation of what Christmas means to you.

continued.....

If you would like to book a tree, please contact Jeanette Peterken by 9th November, <u>ipeterken@googlemail.com</u> or ring 01902 723157, who will send you full details of the event.

We look forward to seeing you throughout December.

(on behalf of St. John's Social Committee)

In the light of current restrictions, the Festival will be delayed by at least a week, but hopefully will still take place. **Ed.**

THE ST. JOHN'S TEAM

Warden: John Peterken Tel. 01902 723157

Reader: Mrs Delphine Hipkiss

Tel. 01902 828064

CHURCH OFFICERS

Secretary: Mrs Hilary Southern Tel. 01922 445265

Verger: Mrs Joy Burrows Tel. 01922 407698

Children, Situation vacant Youth & Families:

Remember, St. John's Church can be found on:		
Twitter:	@StEssington,	
Facebook:	St Johns Church Essington	
Website:	stjohnsessington.co.uk	

Summer is Set to Share her Slimming Secrets!

Summer Pearson joined her local Slimming World group in Wednesfield ten months ago and she now has so much more confidence, self-esteem and a new-found love for food and cooking!

Summer says, "I was at an all-time low in my life. Having had my son in November 2019 and being at my biggest, I knew it was time for a change. I already had a 4 year-old daughter and knew my energy levels and moods needed to change for them, so in January 2020 I took the brave step to join my local Slimming World group. I was met with the biggest welcome and was instantly made to feel comfortable and I knew I was in the right place. Support is really the most important thing.

Initially, I couldn't believe that I had found a way to lose weight without starving myself. We all now enjoy cooking and planning our meals together as a family. Becoming more active is important too and we all now enjoy our walks (and I go running!). But exercise can be as simple as a short walk each day, gardening or even washing the car!

I've now taken on a new challenge, which will fit in with family life, and am taking over the group at St. John's Church on Tuesday evenings, where I do hope I will be seeing some of you...."

(I admire Summer's honesty and determination. I suspect her plans will now be on hold for a while, which is a shame. **Ed.**) (I'm leaving these details in the Magazine for future reference, although of course there will be no Office Hours until further notice. **Ed.**)

Arrangements for weddings and baptisms at St. John's Church can be made during Office Hours at the Church on the first and third Saturdays of the month between 10.00 am and 11.30 am, to book dates or ask questions.

For enquiries regarding placing an entry in the Memorial Book in Church, please contact Mrs Mavis Glennon, Tel. 01543 467675.



(My apologies to those readers who are disappointed that this does not appear in the original Russian!! **Ed.**)

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Bookings and enquiries can be made by contacting:

Louise Tipler, Acting Clerk to the Council, 01922 711608 Monday-Friday, 8.30 am - 4.30 pm (Please ring before you visit, to ensure that the Clerk is in)

Email: clerk@essingtonpc.org

www.essingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Derek Mante BSc (Hons) M.Ch.S.R.Ch. HCPC Podiatrist/Chiropodist

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Friends of Essington

Social Events - FoE Pub Quiz



Wednesday 25th November, to be confirmed

Where: Essington Working Men's Club, at 7.30 pm

Teams: Maximum of 6 people per team (following Government Covid-19 rules)

Covid-19: To limit the spread, here are a few guidelines, until further notice:

- Quiz will be in the concert room, instead of the lounge
- Tables will be pre-laid out with Quiz packs
- Self-marking
- No prizes
- There will be a bucket at the entrance for donations!

Follow us on Twitter for further information or updates.

Environmental

 You may have noticed that we have been maintaining our project areas around the village. Please refer to our Twitter account for up to date reports.

The committee would like to thank residents for their various efforts during the last few months, litter picking, cutting back hedges and planting etc. This should be applauded and appreciated by the entire village.

• **Fly Tipping** continues to be a problem within the village and surrounding roads during these difficult times; so please keep up the good work of reporting issues as they occur.

Please use websites such as: Love Clean Streets www.lovecleanstreets.com Fix My Street www.fixmystreet.com South Staffs Council

www.staffs.gov.uk/environment/fly-tipping.cfm **GOV.UK** www.gov.uk/report-flytipping There is also a MyStaffs mobile app that can be used to report issues.

Become a Member?

We are always looking for new members and would welcome anyone who would like to spend a few hours a month helping to maintain and improve our village environment. If you are interested, please contact us by email <u>foessington@gmail.com</u>, on Twitter @FoEssington or via our website: http://friendsofessington.com

NEWS FROM ESSINGTON WOOD November 2020

Remembrance Sunday is held as a commemoration for the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian men and women who died during both world wars, and subsequent conflicts. It occurs on the second Sunday in November (the 8th in 2020).

It is marked in many towns and cities at war memorials, and will be attended by civic dignitaries, ex-service personnel and current members of the armed forces. A wreath of poppies is placed on war memorials followed by a two minutes' silence.

Between 1919 and 1945, ceremonies were always held on Armistice Day (11th November) but were then moved to Remembrance Sunday. Since 1995, however, it has been usual to hold ceremonies on both days.

Services, without singing and with limited congregations, are currently being held on Sundays at 10.30 am.

J.M.L.



Royal British Legion Essington Branch Service of Remembrance on Sunday, 8th November at St John's Church

You are probably all aware that under the lockdown rules we were not allowed to hold the service as planned.

Before the second lockdown was announced a service was produced as a cooperation between the Legion and the church. This planned service has been made into a video which can be viewed on any device capable of accessing the internet.

The link to watch it is on the Welcome page of this website.



This is the memorial at the front of St Johns on 11th November 2020

ESSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

The following are EXTRACTS from DRAFT Minutes of the Full Essington Parish Council Meeting held via Zoom on 14th September 2020, provided by the Council Offices. Anyone wishing to see a FULL copy of the DRAFT Minutes can do so by accessing the website: <u>www.essingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk</u>. If you wish to view the FULL APPROVED Minutes, these can be requested from the Clerk to the Parish Council at Essington Community Centre

- 1. Apologies Cllr Bradburn
- **2. Declaration of Interest of Members** Cllr Kelly declared an interest in item 8a, Banking Summary due to a payment to Partridge Alan re. Lease to Kelly Tots Nursery.
- **3.** Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting proposed by Cllr Curtis, seconded by Cllr Lester. Cllr Fisher abstained due to technical problems. All in favour.
- 4. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting None
- 5. District Councillors Report Cllr Fisher reported to Council that District Council could be phased out next year, with Parish Councils taking on more responsibility.

6. Correspondence

Several items were read out and discussed. The Parish Council and Cllr Fisher in particular were recognised by Mr Ian Dudson CBE KStJ, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, for their support in the Community during the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown.

The Parish Council, Cllr Steel and Cllr Fisher were also thanked by St. John's Primary Academy School for their continued support and help to implement a snake access into the school to help with the volume of parents queuing. Special thanks to Alan and Sarah Degg for supplying the traffic cones to enable this to happen.

An expression of interest for the shop area has been received, to go on the next Agenda, 12th October.

7. Co-Option

Andrew Curtis was introduced as the co-opted Councillor for Westcroft (in attendance). Adrian Nicklin was introduced as the co-opted Councillor for Central Ward (not in attendance).

- 8. Finance
- A. Bank Summary payments to be passed proposed by Clir Lester, seconded by Clir Southern. All in favour.
- **B. Ratify Standing Orders** proposed by Cllr Steel, seconded by Cllr Lester. All in favour.
- **C. Allotment Association** Update correspondence has been acknowledged by the Allotment Association and the item will be discussed at their next meeting.
- **D. Ratify Payment for Pools Licence** proposed by Cllr Curtis, seconded by Cllr Fisher. All in favour.

9. Clerk Position

A working group has been arranged to meet week commencing 28th September Cllrs Curtis, Southern, Moore, Haddon, Fisher, Lester and Steel.

10. Planning

None. Ongoing issues with Bovis.

11. Community Centre FRA - Update - Certificates have now been received. Payment to be made this week - proposed by Cllr Steel, seconded by Cllr Porter. All in favour. Risk Assessments still not completed for the Centre.

12. Essington Pools

- A. Signage purchase has been made, not yet received.
- B. Weed Management leave on agenda.
- C. Accessibility (British Disabled Angling Association) leave

on agenda.

- **D. Licence Agreement** paid amount for the period April 2016
 31st March 2019. Awaiting invoice for the coming year.
- E. Grass Cutting New Street, proposed by Cllr Fisher, seconded by Cllr Curtis. All in favour.

13. RBS Update

Rialtus are working on the data input. As soon as it is completed, the Council can start online training.

14. Notice Board, All Wards Get further quotes on aluminium notice boards, all Wards.

- **15. Date of the Next Meeting** 12th October
- **16. Closure** 8.26 pm

District & Parish Councillors

Warren Fisher & Christopher Steel

w.fisher@sstaffs.gov.ukTelephone No. 07908 853484c.steel@sstaffs.gov.ukTelephone No. 07984 641361

Staffordshire County Councillors

Kath Perry Telephone No. 01922 412369

Bernard Williams Telephone No. 01922 410259, e-mail bernard.williams@staffordshire.gov.uk

VILLAGE INFORMATION

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Hawthorne Chemist, Essington Community Centre. Tel: 01922 491249 Open times: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri 8.30 am - 6.30 pm, Sat 9 am - 1 pm	Playgroup For details, ring: 01922 403255	
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Essington Post Office	Essington Medical Centre -	
69 Hill Street, Essington. Telephone: 01922 475379 Open Times: Mon - Fri 6.30 a.m 5:30 p.m. Saturday 6.30 a.m 2:00 p.m.	Patient Participation Group We are looking for new members. If you are a patient and would like to be involved, please contact the surgery.	
DEADLINE DATE FOR THE DECEMBER 2020 MAGAZINE THURSDAY 19 th NOVEMBER 2020		
Material received after this date may be held over to the next month. Also, some material may have to be held over if there is not enough space available to print it. All letters, notices of thanks, articles, poems etc. must be accompanied by the full name and address of the sender. <i>Material received by the Editor without this information will not be published</i> .		
Material for publication in the next issue, please forward to : Mrs Kate Rissbrook, Blackhalve Farm, Blackhalve Lane, Essington, WV11 2BB Tel. 01902 732886 E-mail: stjohns_mag1@btinternet.com All Advertising matters to: Mr S. Bate, 86 Hill St, Essington. Tel. 01922 477002 E-mail: stanbate@btinternet.com If you would like to receive this monthly Magazine: (£5 for 12 issues, delivered free of charge) Contact Mrs Bea Hammond, Tel. 01922 478753		

E-mail: beatrice@bhammond.co.uk

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