



July
2020

Betley



St Margaret's

PARISH NEWS

All profits go towards the maintenance of the churchyard. **60p**

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Please email all entries/articles by the 12th of the preceding month to **BetleyParishMag@gmail.com**



A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICAR



St Margaret's Church Celebrating and Sharing God's love

This is the last letter I will write as Vicar of All Saints' and St Margaret's. After nearly seven years, Helen and I are upping sticks and moving to Nottinghamshire to be nearer to our grown-up children.

It is with much gratitude that we journey on with very many happy memories of this season of our lives. It has been an enormous privilege to be your Vicar and thank you to you all for your friendship, good humour and fellowship in the life and work of God's kingdom in these parishes.

This morning I gave a 'Thought for the day' on Facebook – something I never dreamt I'd be doing six months ago. But these are exceptional times and I for one have really enjoyed the challenge of learning new skills in these lockdown days.

The focus of my 'thought' was Abraham – sometimes called 'Father Abraham' because he was the founding Father of our faith. God called Abraham to be his friend. He wanted to bless Abraham and his wife Sarah and to make them into a great nation, quite an idea at the age of 75!

God asked Abraham and Sarah to up sticks and to move to Caanan – a

land that was 'flowing with milk and honey'. He wanted to bless them and their descendants in order that they would be ... a blessing to the other nations of the world.

There remains today much sadness and isolation, and all the more in our post-lockdown world. The world needs people of hope and faith and love. Abraham and Sarah were such people BECAUSE they felt secure within the love of God.

I hope and pray that you too know God's love for you and your family and that that will enable you to have the confidence to be generous to those in need around you.

God has always and only ever wanted one thing: that we should know Him as our Friend and Saviour – the One whose love is unconditional – the One whose love for us enables us to reach out in love to one another – the One whose love for us drives out any fear.

*May God bless you and keep you;
May the Lord make His face to shine upon you;
May the Lord lift up the light of His countenance upon you and give you peace, now and forever more. Amen*

Rev Peter Chantry

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE...

Betley Parish News is online again this month as the usual printers are still closed. This edition covers July only; the easing of lockdown is developing as we go to press, so we are aiming to do a short updated online magazine at the beginning of August. If you normally publish information about a village activity in the magazine, don't forget to let us know what's happening! Village Tennis and the Bowling Club are back in action already, full details inside.

In this issue ... we say farewell to Rev Peter Chantry who's been here since 2013. See pages 12-14 for a special appreciation. Peter's final service will be on 26 July.

The national lockdown has brought great challenges and, inevitably, online criminals have also been taking advantage of the situation. On page 21 there is useful advice from Staffordshire about how to stay safe online and avoid being one of the many thousands who have recently lost money to cybercrime.

If you can, please help out friends and neighbours who rely on the print edition to see this version – thank you! And please also keep supporting our advertisers as they get back into business. We hope to be back in print from September.

The Editors

St. Margaret's Church is now OPEN for private prayer

The Church is open for individual private prayer between 09.00 and 17.00 daily. You are welcome to enter but please adhere to the guidelines posted on the Church door.

Frequent cleaning and disinfecting of areas to be used has been organised. Hand sanitiser is available, but feel free to bring your own!

Please note that the toilet is locked out of use for the time being.

Jennifer Walton and Kevin Hamer

Churchwardens



ST MARGARET'S BETLEY... SERVICES IN JULY

Although St. Margaret's Church is closed for public worship until further notice our worship continues every Sunday online, either through a pre-recorded service or live-streaming via Zoom at 10.30 am.

There will also be live-streaming of our more informal *Living Streams* service at 6.30 pm on 5 July and 2 August.

You are most welcome to join us. Details are issued each week by e-mail with advice on how to participate. Just let one of us know your e-mail address and we will include you.

Rev. Peter Chantry: peterchantry@hotmail.com 01782 750205

Jennifer Walton (Churchwarden): jenwalto@aol.com 01270 820051

Kevin Hamer (Churchwarden): kevinhamer53@btinternet.com

01270 820704

During July our services and key bible readings will be:

5 July	4 th Sunday after Trinity Service of the Word	Joshua 3 Tribal Rivals
12 July	5 th Sunday after Trinity St Margaret's Celebration with Holy Communion	from 2 Samuel A Good King?
19 July	6 th Sunday after Trinity Holy Communion	From 1 Kings A Bad King?
26 July	7 th Sunday after Trinity Service of the Word	2 Kings 25.8 - 21 Exile
2 August	8 th Sunday after Trinity Service of the Word	Nehemiah 2 and 3 Return from Exile

Significant steps have been taken to make Zoom a safe way of accessing our worship. We do hope you'll give it a try - we are learning a new way of being together!

*"The Lord is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in times of trouble"*

BETLEY, BALTERLEY & WRINEHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

We continue to live under the restrictions imposed by the Government as a result of Coronavirus, although in recent weeks we have begun to see some return to normality. The work of the Parish Council, in conjunction with Dr Patel at the Surgery (01270 820527) and with Paul and Caroline Beardsmore at the Village shop and Post Office (01270 820544) has enabled the supply of medicines, food and household supplies to be maintained throughout. Delivery of medicines is working well, with deliveries most days. To date there have been over 100 separate deliveries. A canopy has recently been installed outside the shop to protect people from the worst of any weather. The canopy allows four people to keep dry (or even out of the sun) at any one time.

VIPER details:

The Parish Council's **Community Support Helpline** (CSH) number is **07716 051616**. This is primarily for those in the community who are self-isolating and others where their needs and/or their necessary support cannot be met by family or friends. **VIPER responsibilities** are as previously advised: Sebastian Daly – delivery of medicines & liaison with Dr Patel
Robert Bettley-Smith - liaison with village shop and signage
Richard Head - Village Hall (use of facility has not been activated)
Neil Bullock- (07717 617454) police & traffic liaison

Latest information is regularly posted on the *Betley & Wrinehill Events & Information* Facebook page. *The key point remains to follow the advice – protect yourselves, protect others and protect the NHS.*

Parish Council news

The Parish Council took an early decision that to avoid any risk of spreading the virus it would suspend all activities that are inconsistent with health advice. The Council has continued to deal with essential business such as responding to any consultations (e.g. planning applications), meeting its financial obligations and taking up any local issues. The Council has also liaised with Aaron Bell MP, the Borough Councillors, and relevant officers of the local authorities and other agencies as appropriate. The Council is planning to meet by video conference in July - details will be posted on the parish noticeboards and the Council's website.

A kind donation

Following the offer of a donation from Shirley Forde, who was an evacuee here in 1944, it has now been agreed to plant a 4.5m walnut tree on the Memorial Garden in memory of all the children and their families who were evacuated to this area during World War II.

Memorial Garden and Sandy Croft

The Council is pleased that the Memorial Garden and Sandy Croft (Laudy



Follow us on Facebook!

7

Croft) have remained open to the public throughout the lockdown, as a result of the two areas being used sensibly and safely: thank you. We continue to make improvements to the Memorial Garden and, following the planting of summer bedding, the contractor (Luke Rimmer) has made a start on further improvements including the replanting of the rose garden round the noticeboard. Members of the Parish Council have assisted with this work.

The Village Hall play area still remains closed, in line with Government legislation and statutory requirements, although tennis and bowls have now resumed.

Speeding traffic

One unfortunate side-effect of the reduced traffic volumes is that there seems to have been an increase in traffic speeds along the A531. We have been in touch with Staffordshire Police about this and have been assured that the police speed enforcement van has recently been deployed in the Betley area. The community Speed Watch team is not able to function at the moment owing to Coronavirus precautions. Please report any non-emergency & non-urgent traffic issues to Cllr Bullock at bullock.neil@btinternet.com. Emergencies should be reported to the police by calling 999 or 101, depending on the situation. Please also advise Councillor Bullock of the incident number.

Crime issues

Those of you familiar with the Betley & Wrinehill community page on Facebook will be aware of many recent comments about burglaries and petty thefts. Cllr Bullock is in close contact with the police and about the incidents. A male has been arrested in connection with recent burglaries in Betley. He has since been released on police bail on condition that he does not enter the parish, or Madeley. Police advice is to secure all outbuildings, garden gates etc.; and continue to support the local police by helping with their enquiries and making formal statements so that they can build robust prosecution cases as appropriate. It may be that a Neighbourhood Watch scheme should be set up. If you are interested please contact Cllr Bullock.

Next meeting

Details of the next video conference meeting of the Parish Council in July will be available on the parish noticeboards or our website. Go to www.hugofox.com/community and search for Betley, Balterley or Wrinehill.

Gwyn Griffiths

Clerk

griffiths725@btinternet.com

01270 663832

BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Simon White

Simon.white@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Tel 07561 340 899

Cllr Gary White

Gary.white@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Tel 07834 090 747



***Thank you everyone
161kg in June - Fantastic!***

Warehouse Manager Peter reports,
“Demand for food has increased by 40% in Newcastle, but thanks to the wonderful support of individuals, shops, businesses and community groups the Foodbank is coping well with the extra demand.”

Collection boxes for non-perishable food remain in the porches of the Reading Room and St Margaret's. Your contributions are monitored, secured and safely transferred to the warehouse.

You can also support the Foodbank with financial donations. Just go to
[www.cafonline.org/charityprofile/newcastle-staffs-foodbank/
ccregno1150816](http://www.cafonline.org/charityprofile/newcastle-staffs-foodbank/ccregno1150816)

More information is available from

www.newcastlestaffs.foodbank.org.uk

Kevin Hamer 820704

**BETLEY
READING ROOM**
20 YEARS
2000-2020

**BETLEY
READING ZOOM**

**Missing The Reading Room? Why not
Zoom in on Monday, Thursday
or Saturday between 11.00 and 11.40am
for a chat (bring your own coffee)**

Ring Kevin on 820704 for the link

We hope to see you all soon
“WATCH THIS SPACE”



CHURCH for CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE

Praise and Play



Our toddler group has moved online for now, on Monday morning on All Saints' Facebook page. We've recently been joined by another vicar, Rev. Wilfred (pictured), who's been helping Rev. Peter lead the group.

WHEN? Every Monday at 10am live on All Saints Madeley Facebook page (you can catch up later too) – or on <http://tiny.cc/PraiseandPlay>.

Kids' church

St Margaret's *Early Birds*, have joined forces with All Saints' *Towers* group for kid's church online every Sunday. It's been such fun for us to prepare it – never mind the children watching! – especially because the children are also involved in the videos that we put together. We're very grateful for the leaders and the children who have embraced the challenge of going online. Even if you're no longer 'young', you may still find it fun.

WHEN? Every Sunday, from 9.30am, on the churches' Facebook pages or on this link: <http://tiny.cc/kidschurch>

Youth group

The youth group continues to meet on 2nd and 4th Sundays, and we've had a few new faces joining us. We've been looking at some big questions, such as What is friendship?, and Why there are so many things in the world that make us go WOW? - all surrounded by fun and games that are only possible online, such as rummaging around the house for clothes items and putting them all on at the same time. Our thanks go to our great volunteers, who offer so much support and encouragement, and who are braving this technological new world. We meet on Zoom, please contact johnbpallister@gmail.com or peterchantry@hotmail.com for details.

Upcoming dates: 12 July 26 July

John Beswick Pallister

Thought for the day

If you like to take a few minutes to pause and reflect, join us every weekday for a thought for the day. As well as Peter and John, we'll have other contributors on Fridays. These are live videos on the All Saints Madeley page on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsmadeley/>, but you can see them later on Facebook or on this link: <http://tiny.cc/tftd>

BETLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The **Marvellous Minibeasts** have continued with their topic of 'Summer'. We have been looking at some of the minibeasts that enjoy the summertime and some children have made beautiful symmetrical butterfly pictures. In Maths, we have been learning about doubling, halving and sharing. For our writing challenge, we wrote poems about the summertime, using our five senses.



Well done to **Fabulous Flamingos** as you have adapted to the new home learning planning. I have been so impressed with the work and activities you are completing at home. Keep it up! This week children in Fabulous Flamingos have been learning all about money and I love the hands on learning children are doing at home with real coins! I hope you are enjoying the daily challenges and I love seeing pictures of your work and videos of you completing them.

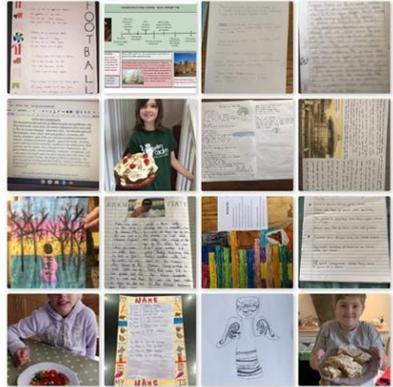
Thank you. Friday's was my favourite so far and I made sure I did a big boogie in the classroom at school but I also loved all your cake designs too! Missing you all, stay safe and see you soon.

Another fantastic week of learning for the children in **Heroic Hedgehogs**. The children have been working especially hard on their creative writing skills this week; writing diary entries, non-fiction texts and newspaper reports based on this half term's topic of Magnificent Mayans. As well as this, the children have continued to complete daily Maths challenges and tackle tricky coding activities online. Keep up the hard work Heroic Hedgehogs.





The **Cheeky Chimps** have been extremely busy at home this week and it is fantastic to see so many of them completing the daily challenges and sharing their pictures with me. It really does brighten my day to see the fantastic work they are completing. Examples of the challenges the children have completed are planning and writing a story using different characters from stories, finding an object in their house or outside and sketching it, choosing a place around the world and writing a fact file about it, finding their favourite poem and sharing this with Mrs Johnson and producing a knowledge organiser for a historical period that they are interested in. I am so proud of them all for their attitude and how hard they are working.



Massive achievement by Imogen



Well done Imogen who has completed a marathon during May on the treadmill whilst being shielded and locked down, in aid of the *Children's Liver Disease Foundation*. So far she has raised just over £7,000 and has achieved 95% of her target of £7,500 which is absolutely amazing. If anyone would like to donate her just giving page is:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/imogensfund>

Art on display on the Stoke Museums Website

I am so proud of the Key Worker children at St Luke's and Betley CE Primary School. Have a look at the wonderful artwork that they have produced with Mrs Brown. We again have a gallery of our work. Well done.

<https://www.stokemuseums.org.uk/pmag/st-lukes-betley-schools/>

Sam Ray

Headteacher

We asked members of St Margaret's congregation for their memories of our Vicar's time in Betley....and this is what they said.

I'll remember Rev. Peter for

Being a Vicar who encouraged fellowship group leaders and confidently allowed them to get on with the job without interference.

Mike Darlington

His happy school church services.

Good luck. Sam & Ben Walton.

Also best wishes from

Ruth & Matt Walton

For being with me at my husband's bedside a few hours before he died.

Pam Clarke

His encouraging faith, his friendship, and flapjacks!

Pamela Lane

His inspiration, love, care and achievements within the Church and Betley community. To remember everyone's name is incredible! God bless you.

Margaret & Peter Floyd.

Keeping in touch when I couldn't go to church. Ron Pearce

Appreciating our bell ringing and his regular visits to the tower to socialize and pray with us.

Robert Bailey

For joyfully living the Christian life every day".

Kevin

His love and support in 2019 which turned out to be a very challenging year. Thanks too for the chocolate brownie! We will miss you loads.

Sian and Alan

A sermon on "Love, Gratitude & Forgiveness"so valuable in so many instances, we will never forget it or Peter .

Julie and Graham

The encouragement and opportunity to lead and preach in services, and for supporting my ongoing journey of discernment - thank you

Linda Hough



*For his caring ministry, and for the week we spent with him and others walking St Cuthbert's Way in May 2018 - 64 miles in 7 days.
Sue and Mike Smith*

His amazing memory for names, even relations who only appeared occasionally and his interest in, and concern for ALL people.

Audrey Darlington

Introducing the Christmas Eve Farm Yard crib services, truly inspirational, and sharing prayers with the bell ringers. Many thanks.

Bernard & Dena Swift

His care, compassion and for just being Peter. We will miss him so much Diane Spencer

*For leading the congregation with tuneful singing, always up to speed, while I was organist.
Geraldine Luckhurst*

*His fantastic memory, especially for people's names and his warmth towards all members of the congregation - and the Sainsbury's basket!
Helen Shorrock*

For his infinite kindness.

Jean French

Encouraging so many people to share in the Ministry of the worship and ensuring the succession.

Jen Walton

His amazing memory for names and his tray bakes! Annie Williams

For bringing us closer to God. Thank you and God Bless.

Sue and Martin Townley

For encouraging us to edit the Betley Parish News! Sadie and Ken

*The chat I had with him, which gave me the confidence to get confirmed at the end of the Alpha course. All the best.
Rick Hough*



FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS ...

Burials

Thursday 28th May:

Angela Caroline Kennerley

May She Rest In Peace

DO YOU NEED PRAYER?



Would you, or someone you know, appreciate a private conversation with clergy and the chance for some personal prayer for yourself or someone you know?

Clergy from St Margaret's and All Saints' churches will be available by phone after the online Sunday services .

Please phone or send a message to Rev Peter or Rev John to find out who is on duty on a particular Sunday.

ST MARGARET'S CHURCH - HOW TO ARRANGE...

Baptisms - Please contact the Parish Office 01782 750205

Confirmations - Adults and young people who would like to re-commit themselves to the baptismal promises made on their behalf and who would like to prepare to begin to receive communion are encouraged to speak to one of the clergy about being confirmed.

Weddings - Normally, weddings can be arranged for couples when one or both partners live in the parish or are on the electoral roll of our church. Please contact the Parish Office. 01782 750205

Funerals - Arrangements for funeral services in church are made through the funeral director who will contact the clergy.

Visiting - Please let the clergy know of anyone who is ill at home or in hospital, and who would appreciate a call.

BETLEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY www.blhs.co.uk

Hello again to our members from your Committee. Although we look forward to meeting again, it is unlikely to be before January as there will be restrictions on the use of the room to consider: how many can meet in the space etc.

Our main news at present is that the Committee are keeping in touch by email and we recently took a vote about the change of date of our Meetings. Currently, we tend to clash much of the time with the Parish Council on the last Thursday of the month. We agreed unanimously that we should in future

MEET ON THE THIRD THURSDAY of each month.

Once again, I recommend to you our website www.blhs.co.uk as above, where you can find newsletters, old photographs and quite a lot of history of Betley. Go to **betleylocalhistorysocietygroup** on Facebook to see up to date information and discussions.

Rhoda Farrington (Secretary)

I am very pleased to tell you that our first Newsletter during the pandemic is free for all to see online. Rhoda has written a comprehensive account of life in Betley during lockdown. Hopefully in twenty years time this will be a reminder of how life suddenly changed for all of us. In the second article Shirley, our archivist, has revealed her skills of detection as a result of an email from the other side of the country about Betley. You may read the Newsletter by going to Google and typing in BLHS Newsletters, then go to Pandemic 2020, Issue 1.

From the beginning of this Society we have about 38 Newsletters on different topics concerning local history, and written by many different people. You may read these on the website except for the more recent ones which are reserved for members only. You may even read these at the cost of being a member for a year, which is £6.50. For further enquiries about the BLHS please contact us on:

betley.history@gmail.com

Mavis Smith (Chair and Newsletter Editor)



@BetleyHistory



Betley Court Gardens

Update June 2020

The first phase of clearance work to remove rubble and ash from the remains of Betley Court has begun. If you've passed Betley Court recently, you'll have noticed the arrival of two grey site buildings in the Peace Garden, that provides office space and a kitchen, along with a smaller unit providing a mains-connected toilet facilities for our contractors. Removing the rubble will allow experts, and our architect, the opportunity to inspect the remaining structure in more detail, before making recommendations on how to proceed.

In the gardens, we are soft-landscaping the area around the new visitors' hub. A selection of woodland flowers and perennials were planted in the borders in April. We are now turning our attention to the area uprooted when the large trees were felled. The perimeter of this area has been seeded with a mixture of British woodland and hedgerow wildflowers which will blend with the existing planting. In the centre, we are part way through sowing native woodland grass species to create a harmonious area of grass tussocks. We've also started building habitat piles from deadwood collected as we cleared the site. This will enhance the habitat for all manner of wildlife in the garden, including hedgehogs and beetles.

Further details of the garden project can be found in our weekly blog posts at: www.deadgardenerssociety.blogspot.com

The Brown family, Betley Court

A riddle

I weigh nothing, but you can still see me. If you put me in a bucket, I make the bucket lighter. What am I?

Answer on page 19

BETLEY TENNIS NEWS

As you will have noticed the tennis court at Betley has now re-opened but only to be used as set out below. To book the court and arrange to pick up the key, contact Judy Bettley-Smith on [07794 335354](tel:07794335354) or judy.bs@btinternet.com

Current rules for court use

From the LTA guidance notes the key points that you need to be aware of when playing are listed below. Complete guidelines can be found on the lta.org.uk website.

- 1) The net will be left at the correct height to avoid players having to adjust it. Please leave the net as it is.
- 2) Both singles and doubles play is now permitted with people from outside your household, as long as you remain 2 metres apart as far as possible – meaning that four people from different households can now play doubles.
- 3) Players do not now need to use their own tennis balls – however, if you choose to use shared balls then extra care must be taken to ensure you do not touch your face during play, and you should clean your hands before play and immediately after finishing (ideally take your own hand gel or wipes to use).
- 4) Players should still avoid using their hands to pick up tennis balls where possible - use your racquet/foot to return them to the required player.
- 5) Players should bring their own water bottle, and not share food or drink with others.

Subscription Rates and Hourly booking

Subscriptions are available for 6 or 12 months starting from 1st April. Subscriptions give you unlimited use of the court including the use of floodlights to play in the evening. Email Judy Bettley-Smith - judy.bs@btinternet.com to request a subscription form.

Subscription Rates

Full Adult	12 months £35	6 months £30
Adult concession*	12 months £25	6 months £20
Junior**	12 months £20	6 months £15

* Adult concessions 17/18 years in full time education

** Junior 10-16 years

Hourly booking

You may book the court on a pay as you go basis for the following fees:

Adults: £1.50 per person per hour (Adult concession: £1.25 per person per hour)

Junior: £0.50 per person per hour (Children up to 10 years: free if playing with an adult)

Bookings can be made one week ahead.



BETLEY METHODIST CHURCH

I looked in my Bible Reader's Encyclopaedia and Concordance to see if the word "bubble" appears in the Bible? Guess what? It doesn't!! Suddenly, since 13 June, it has entered the vocabulary of some of us. It means that a single person can form a social bubble with another bit of our family and HAVE A VISIT! Perhaps the joy comes from overruling its opposite when the law declared that we could NOT visit our Mum, Dad, sister, brother, son or daughter during lockdown as we have always had the freedom to do.

Freedom to go into our Churches and Chapels we have taken for granted until now. Let's be very thankful to God that this is a temporary measure which we understand and not some sort of foreign oppression which has seized our land and our normal everyday living! In the meantime, we continue to conference call at Chapel, and to Zoom into St Margaret's Services and activities.

God bless until our freedom returns

Phone-in Prayer times:

Sundays: 6:00 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays: 8.30 pm

Contact me for phone number and PIN on 01270 820022

Rhoda Farrington

Sanctus, St Mark's Supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees



Sanitary products and toiletries can be deemed a luxury that is unaffordable for many. Sanctus relies on the generosity of supporters to collect these items for them, through collection boxes in local churches.

St Margaret's is one such church. If you would like to donate, please leave your contribution in the church porch.

<http://www.sanctusstmarks.co.uk>

Riddle answer

A hole

Betley Show & Country Fair

The Show has been cancelled, but the Scarecrows are coming ... as well as parish competitions in Photography, Tallest Sunflower, and for children: Art, and Story writing.

Every household in the parish should have received a leaflet with full details of Classes, entry rules and closing dates.

If you didn't get one, (or can't now find it!) check the Betley Show website, or ring Betley Court Farm on 01270 820229



Betley and District Village Hall Bowling Club

Tucked away behind the village hall, the tennis court, and the children's play area is the **Crown Green bowling club**. In its lovely village setting, it is now well established with a wide cross section of members. During normal times we have social activities, regular friendly events with other clubs, and opportunities to play in local leagues.

We positively welcome new members of all ages and abilities. We are open at the moment for members on a restricted basis so that we can maintain social distancing and stay safe. If you are interested in becoming a member then please get in touch and we can talk through how this can happen safely. The fee for new members in 2020 is reduced to £15.

For more information contact:

Rachel Alcock 01270 820136 or email paulrach121@gmail.com

Tony Turner 07721 939501 or email arturner.uk@gmail.com



Messages from Staffordshire Police and County Council

Coronavirus-related scams

To date, Action Fraud nationally has received reports from **2,378 victims of Coronavirus-related scams, with the total losses reaching over £7 million**. Criminals are using government branding in emails to convince you they're genuine. They are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to try and get their hands on your money and personal information. The majority of reports to Action Fraud are related to online shopping where products, have never arrived or have been sub-standard. Other frequently reported scams include suspects using the outbreak as a reason the victim can't come to see e.g. a vehicle or puppy they are selling and persuade the victim to make a payment in advance for a non-existent item. There are also a large number of fake TV Licensing emails.

How you can protect yourself from Coronavirus-related scams:

There are some simple steps you can take that will protect you from the most common Coronavirus-related scams. Here's what need to do:

1 - Watch out for scam messages

Your bank, or other official organisations, won't ask you to share personal information over email or text. If you receive an email you're not quite sure about, forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS):

report@phishing.gov.uk

2 - Shopping online

If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first. Check if others have used the site and what their experience was. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, other payment providers may not provide the same protection.

3 - Unsolicited calls and browser pop-ups offering tech support

Never install any software, or grant remote access to your computer, as a result of a cold call. Remember, legitimate organisations would never contact you out of the blue to ask for financial details such as your PIN or full banking password.

NHS Test and Trace scams:

The NHS Test and Trace service plays an important role in the fight against coronavirus and it's vital the public have confidence and trust in the service. However, we understand the concerns people have about the opportunity for criminals to commit scams.

What you need to know:

Contact tracers will **only call you from the number 0300 013 5000**. Anyone

who does not wish to talk over the phone can request the NHS Test and Trace service to send an email or text instead, inviting them to log into the web-based service. All text or emails sent by NHS Test and Trace will ask people to sign in to the contact tracing website and will provide you with a unique reference number. We would advise people to type the web address <https://contact-tracing.phe.gov.uk> directly into their browser, followed by the unique reference number given to you, rather than clicking on any link provided in the message.

The NHS Test and Trace service will never:

- ask you to dial a premium rate number to speak to them (for example, those starting 09 or 087)
- ask you to make any form of payment or purchase a product or any kind
- ask for any details about your bank account
- ask for your social media identities or login details, or those of your contacts
- ask you for any passwords or PINs, or ask you to set up any passwords or PINs over the phone
- ask you to download any software to your PC or ask you to hand over control of your PC, smartphone or tablet to anyone else ask you to access any website that does not belong to the government or NHS

If you think you have been a victim of fraud, please report it to Action Fraud at <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk> or by calling **0300 123 2040**.

Staffordshire Health App Finder

Digital health and wellbeing apps can help you to manage your health at home, but there are thousands to choose from and not all apps can be trusted to offer clinically proven and up to date advice. To help you find trusted apps that meet your needs, we've set up an easy-to-use Health App Finder. It's a library of fully reviewed and handpicked apps proven to help with things like weight loss and fitness, stopping smoking and mental wellbeing as well as dementia, diabetes and cancer. Follow the link for info.

<https://tinyurl.com/yb69gqgb>

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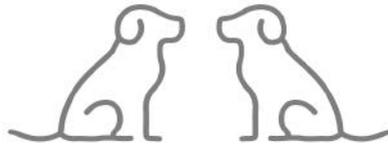
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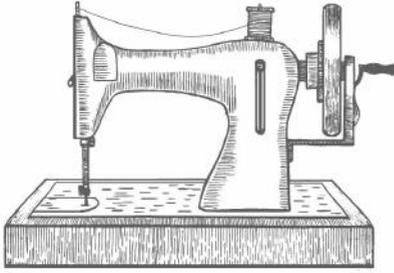
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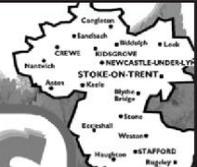
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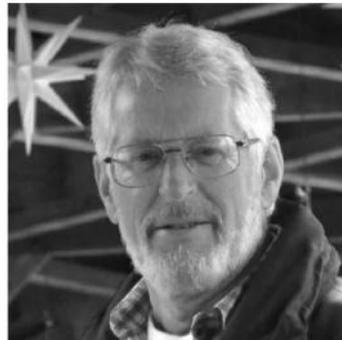
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