

We are very grateful to all those who volunteered to help out at the beginning of lockdown. There has been little call on their services which suggests that residents are managing the crisis with support from family, friends and neighbours. There are however more than 40 volunteers still available to do shopping, run errands or just have a friendly chat if you are lonely. Call any of the Residents' Support Group below if you need their assistance.

A new recreational area for Newburgh

Good news for when the lockdown ends: Newburgh Parish Council is pleased to announce that the field and wood adjacent to Newburgh Sports Club in Cobbs Brow Lane have been donated to the village for recreational use.

The Appleton family is very generously making a gift of the area to the village as a memorial to Charles Appleton, who lived in Newburgh for much of his life, and to their great uncles.

The Council has signed an agreement with the Appleton family to acquire the area. It has the conditions that the land "is gifted for the use and enjoyment of the people of Newburgh and with a view to maintaining and enhancing its conservation and ecological value". Any future commercial development of the site is forbidden.

In due course the Parish Council intends to seek volunteers to form a village organisation to manage the site and develop long term plans for its use. Initial work will soon be underway to make the area safe and during this work entry is at visitors' own risk.

Suppliers of goods

Our village suppliers continue to do a great job of support for residents.

- So far the **Post Office** has been serving the occasional coffee when Denis isn't wandering the streets of Newburgh with grocery deliveries (around 200 orders delivered by him and Frankie, mostly on foot!). Now that All You Knead Bakery are back baking, the coffee shop will re-open officially with a reduced menu available - strictly take away only - serving all the usual coffees, teas and cold drinks plus a selection of cakes, its famous sausage rolls and pork pies (no hot food or sandwiches at the moment). Please as always observe social distancing rules and there should be no more than two customers in the coffee shop at any time. Grocery and household goods also continue to be available for delivery Tel 01257 462352.
- **Applecast** has extended its range of food products (including flour and fruit portions) and has now completed around 400 orders. The nursery is also delivering garden plants (mainly perennials but still some bedding plants) Call 01257 463012 for prices or see <https://www.facebook.com/CastNorthWestUK/>
- **Reynolds Butchers** (01257 367654) and **Paolo's Fruit and Vegetable Shop** (07495 429563) meat, fruit and vegetable service still available for Newburgh and the surrounding area.
- Good reports on the **Plough Inn's** delivery service of Brunch on Saturdays and Sundays from 9am to 3pm and Sunday Carvery meals from 12pm to 5pm. Tel 07432 128980 or 01695 722322.
- **Cobbs Brow Nurseries** has delivered over 300 packs of garden plants in the village and surrounding area. Packs still available Tel 07880 922584

Sewing for the NHS

The last newsletter asked for volunteers to help Helen Cope produce critical care gowns for the NHS. Six people came forward and have so far completed 112 gowns. A start has also been made on making decontamination bags and scrubs hats. Thanks to all for your brilliant efforts! The scheme is co-ordinated by Carol Morris of Sewing Street at Burscough Wharf. Contact Helen if you would like to help Tel 07887 848520.

Scam Warning and Safe Trading

One of the major things to be aware of currently is the amount of scams directed at the elderly and vulnerable. These have included offers of picking up pensions; doing odd jobs which have been massively over-priced; telephone calls to say that payment for a funeral has been declined and needs to be made requiring disclosure of bank details to the caller; an offer of face masks, hand gel and protective gloves, payment for which bank details are again needed. Please report any scams to the police immediately.

Lancashire County Council's trading standards department has a safe traders' scheme which lists work people approved by LCC as being trustworthy and reasonably priced. It can be found at <https://safetrader.org.uk/>

If you need any help dealing with scams or suspect offers of work or in finding a safe trader please get in touch with any of the people listed below who will be able to help.

Newburgh village website

During the lockdown the village website www.newburghlancs.co.uk is being redesigned to make it easier to edit and add new information. Newburgh resident Tom Gerard is managing the redesign for the Parish Council which operates the site. Work is still in progress but all the information from the previous site is available. . If you have a business and would like to be listed (free) or any other information to include please email chris.moore14@btinternet.com

Church services

Newburgh and Westhead churches are reaching a congregation of around 75 with a Service at 10.30am each Sunday using Zoom video conferencing. There will also be an Ascension Day service at 7.30pm on Thursday 21 May where the Archdeacon Jennifer McKenzie will be speaking. If you would like to join in the Services contact church.news@hotmail.com to be given a meeting identity and a password.

Garden waste collection

West Lancashire Borough Council has just announced that it can provide an online subscription service for residents wishing to subscribe for garden waste collection (brown bins) for 2020/21. Residents will not be able to subscribe over the phone. See more at <https://www.westlancs.gov.uk/refuse-recycling/garden-waste-collections.aspx>

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