



## **CHURCH SERVICES**

### **No services until further notice**

We all owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the front line workers, especially those involved in the health service. Below are notes from the Shotesham website concerning the foundation of the Norfolk and Norwich hospital.

#### **Shotesham cottage hospital**

Erected 1731-54 (arguably the first Cottage Hospital in England), The hospital and nearby mortuary (Oak Lodge) had space for twelve patients, while the mentally disturbed patients were housed in the Infirmary (Archers House). To the left of the Infirmary is the Doctor's House and the Nurse's House. To the right was the Victualler's House (Dairy Cottage). The hospital was built by William Fellowes (Man of Shotesham) under the guidance of the eminent surgeon Benjamin Gooch who dedicated the first edition of his treatise on Cases and Practical Remarks in Surgery (1758) to his patron: "It was your erecting an Infirmary for the benefit of the poor which gave me an opportunity of making some of the following observations in surgery; and when the opinion of my friends inclined me to publish them a sense of my obligations to you called for this profession of my gratitude ..... Providence, that wisely orders all things, has blessed you with an ample fortune; it is a blessing because you employ it to the best purposes."

In another publication Chirurgical Works, Gooch refers on a number of occasions to the treatment and observation of his surgical cases in Shotesham Infirmary. His debt to William Fellowes for founding this cottage hospital for the people of the village of Shotesham was considerable and this Gooch publicly acknowledged. Gooch and Fellowes went on to become involved with the foundation of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital in 1771 where Gooch was the first consulting surgeon.

**www.shotesham.com for news and all up to date information including details of local deliveries of provisions etc. Thanks to Ken for keeping the website up to date with all the latest information. Also thanks to Emma for the emails which keep us so well informed**

*Thanks to John and Lou Albert who have kindly sponsored this edition of 'Contact' celebrating over 33 happy years in Shotesham.*



## **SHOTESHAM CONTACT**

*May 2020*

### **Thought from Dawn**

The lockdown continues and we are quickly adjusting to this new but temporary way of life. We can count our blessings that we live in such a beautiful part of the country. For those who are able to go for a walk – there is plenty of choice. For others confined to home, a stretch in the garden may be possible and if not, then at least the view from the window has often been of bright, sunny skies. Church of England evangelist, Canon John said; "Our grandparents (or perhaps our parents) were called to war.... we are called to sit on the sofa – we CAN do this!!" Of course, there are some among us who see very little of their sofa at the moment and in a sense are "called to war" – our NHS staff and key workers. We acknowledge them especially at 8pm on Thursday evenings with nationwide applause.

Requests have been made for the church bells in Shotesham to be rung on these evenings but, under current circumstances, this is not a decision that can be made by local clergy – we are bound to adhere to the instructions given by our Bishops and the Archbishops' Council. However, I very much look forward to the "end of hostilities" when the bells can once more ring out in praise and thanks to God for his goodness which we are seeing so clearly in and through the work of the NHS and others who are serving so selflessly at this time.

With every blessing and my continued prayers

**Dawn** Team Rector dawn@tasvalley.org The New Rectory, The Street, Saxlingham Nethergate, Norfolk NR15 1AJ 01508 498924

**Parochial Church Council** The Parochial Church Council annual general meeting has been postponed. Churchwardens John Torbitt and Jane Blease, Treasurer Bob Harris Secretary Patricia Leighton remain in office until the meeting can be arranged..

### **Shotesham Parish Council with PCC and SVA**

We're now heading into the third month affected by lockdown, with the next review by the UK Gov. currently being planned for around the 7th May. Since the lockdown started on 23rd, a small team representing the three main active groups in the village has been working to assist our community to cope with the restrictions involved.

Working with some of our other residents who are happy to volunteer their help, shopping and prescriptions are being provided to anyone who has asked for assistance, and we have grown our contact list of email addresses to reach as many people as we can. We also know that, as always happens in Shotesham, neighbours and friends are continuing to help with looking after each other and, with all that going on we continue to hope that anyone who needs help is getting it.

If by any chance you know of anyone who might need help, or are worried that someone may be isolated or on their own, please get in touch with one of the contacts below and we'll look into it.

In the meantime we have our confidential email distribution list and the village website - [www.shotesham.com](http://www.shotesham.com), both of which continue to provide lots of helpful information from service providers and gardening and growing tips, to some amazing photos of the flora and fauna. A deal of work, particularly by Rosemarie Gough, has been put into reviewing the email list, and whilst it has grown by some 50 - 60 over the last month, we still believe we're probably missing some people. Under the lockdown restrictions, it's obviously easier and safer to get our Monthly Contact newsletter (provided courtesy of Pat & Bob Harris) sent out by email to anyone who has this facility. But in the meantime we will get copies to any household which we believe isn't being reached by this means.

Of course we can't always match an email address to a person or a property, so if you get a paper copy and you have an email address, please let us know by sending an email to one of the contacts below. Remember the email list is entirely confidential and your details will NOT be used or passed on for ANY purpose other than for village info.

Despite lots of bad news, it's great to see so many of us out and about and taking advantage of our (generally) lovely Spring weather. Exchanging a few words and, even briefly, getting to know someone else in the village, from the requisitely safe distance of course, can be a distraction and a joy, long may the sun keep shining. If you are walking on the north end of the Common, don't forget the cows. We now have a small herd of around 18 cows, mums and youngsters but, whilst they are curious, they are probably more worried about you than the other way around. Just give them their space and all should be well.

If you have any info that you feel might benefit people in Shotesham, please let us know and we'll get it distributed as appropriate.

Finally, the SVA are still happy to accept your annual £3 donation. Best way to pay is by BACS transfer to, Account Name - Shotesham Village Association, A/C no 23782145, Sort Code 60-15-31. Reference should be 'your name, SVA sub', or just pass it in an envelope to Treasurer Raz. Many thanks in anticipation.

Details to contact for assistance are:

Bob Harris. 550672. [hill.cottage@btinternet.com](mailto:hill.cottage@btinternet.com)

Jeff Gough. 550358. [clerk.shotesham@outlook.com](mailto:clerk.shotesham@outlook.com)

Heather Jackson 550785. [heatherbelljackson@btinternet.com](mailto:heatherbelljackson@btinternet.com)

Ken Munro 550736. [resotan@aol.com](mailto:resotan@aol.com)

Stay well and safe, Heather (PC Chair)

Visitors to the village - updated police advice can be found in the media but, simply put, people may drive a short way to take their exercise - <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/health/drive-walk-countryside-coronavirus-lockdown-rules-police-guidance-a4416766.html>

### **Shotesham Short Story Challenge**

The villagers both young and old are challenged to participate in writing a short story with each participant writing a paragraph and then passing it on.

Ken Holbeck was asked to write the starting paragraph, which he has very kindly done. *See below* If you or any family members are interested in participating please send an email to Ken [k.holbeck@btinternet.com](mailto:k.holbeck@btinternet.com) and he will give you more details. When it is your turn to write a paragraph the story so far will be sent to you to add your paragraph and return it to Ken.

*Time to go.....*

*The morning run has been the regimen for the past few months now, ever since moving to this rural area. Nice and early, no one around, never mind the clinging morning mist, just get out there and do it. I tell myself, 'Once started you're half way there'. Pit, pat, pit, pat, down the Street, past the medieval church, into the loke, and the sheltering wood. Straightaway, I notice the sound of my running changes on the gravelly surface, crunching into the few centimetres of overnight snow. Although chilly, there's no breeze and I'm already warm from the exercise. The trees appear a little unsettling though in the hanging mist but the babbling beck is at least reassuring. Despite the competing extraneous sounds I hear another one, an unusual sound, almost inaudible in the distance. One that I can't quite identify; almost like laughter. Straining to hear whilst running is difficult. It's impossible to tell whether the distant sound is increasing or decreasing in volume?*

*So, I stop and listen, and listen.*

*Nothing.....Yet?.....*

