

This Community Cares

A small selection of images to show how our amazing community rallied round when Coronavirus hit. See page 2 for more detail.



Sarah Tibble



Paul Thompson

Sarah & Paul formed a support Group in Middleton.



Just one of the many Food Bank collections from across the Parish – this was from The Hungry Horse in Broughton.

Food bank collections remain in Broughton with people able to drop off food at The Rectory, London Road.



Business as usual!

Throughout lockdown staff & councillors have continued to operate.

The office will remain closed to the public for the foreseeable future & all meetings are being held virtually. We can all be contacted, via e-mail, if you call please leave a message and we aim to get back to you within 2 working days.

Say Hello

We would like to welcome Rodi Lee to the Parish Council team as our new Community Officer. This is an exciting new public facing role to help us engage with our community more face-to-face when out and about in the parish. Rodi has worked on various community projects through her previous roles at The Parks Trust and The National Trust. She is also a very keen gardener so is looking forward to her regular allotment visits and working alongside our plot tenants. Rodi will be carrying out regular checks of the area, managing our allotments, and working on new community projects to involve local people, as well as being a visible presence around the Parish. If you see Rodi out and about on her bike, make sure you stop to say hello!



..... Wave Goodbye

The Parish Council would like to pay thanks to Colin Bowker for all his work as Parish Warden.

Colin's involvement with the Parish goes back several years and we have been able to enjoy his very extensive skills and versatility on many projects. From the refurbishment of MK Pavilion to improving our many allotment sites.

We thank you Colin, for your willing attitude, tenacity, flexibility and honest dependability over these times and wish you well in your new role in the entertainment business.



Allotments are fully into the season now, and plot tenants have certainly been challenged with the variety of weather that has been thrown at them! During these difficult times, allotments have been a welcome escape by providing people with food for the soul as well as for the plate. There has been a growing interest in allotments, resulting in all of our four sites being at full capacity with many still on the waiting list. Our tenants put a lot of effort into their plots, which results in some beautiful growing spaces enjoyed by all the family. Take a look on our website at some of the allotments we snapped this season!

Interested in having an Allotment? You can join our waiting list by filling out an enquiry form on our website <https://www.broughtonandmkv-pc.gov.uk/allotments/>

Middleton Allotment

Since the last tenant moved off of the former Middleton Allotment site, there has been much speculation and rumours about what is to happen to that area. We would like to assure you that there will be no houses built on that land in fact quite the opposite – although nothing has been finalised some of the ideas discussed for that area are to offset our carbon footprint and create an area to be enjoyed by all residents, planted with trees, wildflowers and even home to some bee hives – if you have an interest in your local environment and would like to be part of the working group for this project then please drop Rodi an email rodi.lee@broughtonandmkv-pc.gov.uk

Neighbours Rally to Help Local Residents >>>

There seems to be no shortage of public spirit in this parish as groups quickly formed to help neighbours support one another during the Covid outbreak.

In **Middleton**, Paul Thompson and Sarah Tibble formed a support Group (Middleton Coronavirus Community Support Group - MCCSG) and almost overnight had 50+ people sign up to help. They mail-dropped flyers to every house in the area. On the face of it this sounds simple but organisers soon found that there were a host of responsibilities and liabilities involved in helping people with medical situations and avoiding the fraudulent concerns too. Nonetheless, it became clear that these issues were neither going to stop the organisers nor the volunteers from pitching in to help. Tasks were varied from shopping to prescription support and being 'there' for people shielding and needing support. This group garnered expert support on mental health issues from Jay Honour and challenges for carers and caring from Raj Chuahan.

Volunteers Jen Matthews & Ian Turbutt formed collection points for the Food Bank with incredible generosity from donors as food reserves quickly dwindled with the new demand.

On the Eastern side of the Parish In **Broughton & Brooklands** a Street Coordinator scheme was set up with some support from Broughton & Brooklands Community Connectors. In total there are 19 street coordinators, some taking on more than one street. These people kept in touch with their neighbours through various informal means such as Whats App groups.

One resident set-up a specific Facebook group at the beginning of the pandemic in order to offer a place where people could both ask for and offer support. This was particularly useful at the beginning of lockdown and enabled people to signpost and support one another via social media.

There have been two foodbank collection points, one at The Hungry Horse Pub thanks to Mark & Kirsty Fitzsimon and another at The Rectory where Rev Ruth Maxey also provided a games exchange, this is a great idea where families could drop by and choose a game to borrow.

MK Hindu Association (MKHA) has announced that they have supplied over 3000 hot meals to MK Hospital, the Night Shelter and sheltering individuals without support. This service has been enabled by personal donations and an army of volunteers making deliveries of meals, groceries and prescriptions and calls to the lonely. Keep an eye out for more about their work on our social media platforms.

Oakgrove was also involved with their group tying into the Milton Keynes Coronavirus Support Group and everyone provided 'cross-boundary' pledges to anyone overwhelmed by need. Meanwhile, others have served the existing charities like Age Concern with shopping and delivery tasks. Our people have been very busy and generous with their time and care.

The long-term hope from most of the new groups is that the newly founded organisations and groups will morph into social groups that will last well beyond the life of the virus. We hope so and also would wish to thank all the volunteers and carers, most of which are unnamed here, for their support and kindness through a period that has been difficult for everyone & regrettably not yet over.

Special Thanks >>

We would particularly like to give special thanks to two of our contractors:

RTM Landscapes



Marcus Young
Environmental Services



They have both gone above and beyond their usual high standards in keeping the parish landscaping tidy and ensuring all our bins are emptied. This has been achieved during this unprecedented time of the COVID-19 pandemic and with limited availability of staff.

Both contractors have put strategies in place to ensure public contact is minimal.

For instance, our bin empties have been happening early morning before many people were even out of bed and grass cutting and landscaping works are being carried out on schedule despite the extenuating circumstances we have found ourselves to be in.

VE Day across the Parish >>>

This year marks 75 years since the end of the Second World War. VE-Day has been very much at the forefront of our minds. Whilst lockdown may have restricted physical acts of commemoration, it did not lessen the spirit of remembrance and gratitude for the courage and sacrifice shown by so many. This has been made even more poignant by the passing of Dame Vera Lynn, synonymous as she will always remain with those who served and the nation as a whole at that time.

On 2nd September it will be 75 years since end of the war in the Far East and with it, the end of all hostilities in the Second World War.

Whilst our communities were considerably smaller then, the sacrifice and heartbreak of the two world wars in the last century were felt here too, as the local memorials we have bear witness to. For generations since and right up to today, the impact of war and unrest, wherever that has been, has a very real meaning.

Prompted by all this we have been giving considerable thought as to how we honour the sacrifices made 75 years ago, remember the human impact of all wars and reflect on the peace and freedoms that hard won should be held dear.

Our first thoughts were on benches, planters and alike. We concluded that these may not suit every area of our community, which we felt was important, and that quite literally they would become just part of the 'furniture'.

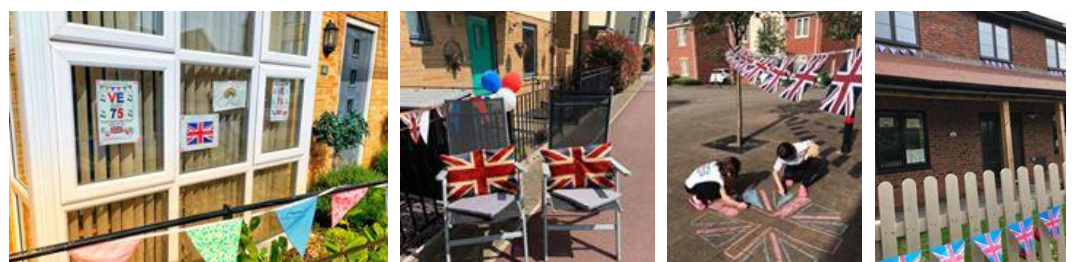
Rather than physical things, our thinking has moved on to creating community spaces. Spaces where people can come together or spend time as individuals. Spaces for laughter or quiet reflection.

Taking this idea, we are currently working on creating some simple and meaningful commemorative arboretums across our community, where possible and working with partners where necessary. This will involve planting new trees, installing benches and if space allows, sowing wild-flower meadows. Having trees and flowers growing, symbolising our community growing and new life, feels like a fitting tribute to those whose sacrifices we should never forget.

We will keep you updated on progress with this.

VE Day was a wonderfully warm day, community spirit was plentiful and many residents got into the spirit and decorated their homes, inside and out. Below is a very small selection of the VE Day celebrations captured on camera. Thanks to all that took part

and sent us images, all the images can now be found on our website.



Get in touch >>>

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us.

Although the office is closed we are all still working, when calling please leave a short message with your number so we can return the call.

**Broughton & Milton
Keynes Parish Council**
27 Atlas Way, Oakgrove,
MK10 9SG
Tel: 01908 087499

Vicky Mote
clerk@broughtonandmkv-
pc.gov.uk

Lynn Maddocks
lynn.maddocks@broughto
nandmkv-pc.gov.uk

Rodi Lee
rodi.lee@broughtonandm
kv-pc.gov.uk

www.broughtonandmkv-
pc.gov.uk

Find us on 

 Follow us on
Instagram

We are now also on
Twitter – please follow
us to keep up with
what's going on in
within the Parish.



What happening across the Parish >>>

Bins

Since January we have now installed 8 new bins, in locations across the parish where residents told us there was a need. We also have 2 more bins waiting to be installed on Brooklands behind the Sports Pavilion.

Whilst the warm weather has enabled people to get out and meet up in groups of up to 6 people and enjoy the many green spaces we have within the Parish, sadly we have noticed a considerable increase in litter and dog waste over the lockdown period. Our contractors have continued to provide an amazing service emptying our bins early morning and even on Bank Holidays, plus going out to clear litter that was sadly left around the bins when the bins were full. We would like people who when coming across a full bin if you could simply take your litter home.



We already spend over £700 EVERY month emptying the 42 dog waste & litter bins we have installed across the parish, in a year that's a WHOPPING £8,400!, Research conducted by Keep Britain Tidy found that 62% of people drop litter but only 28% actually admit to it and 7 out of 10 people would feel guilty for dropping litter.

The 'invisible' costs of litter can affect us all. If you live on littered streets you could expect to see your house price take a hit. Even more worryingly, broken glass, rusty cans and cigarette butts left lying around can cost people and animals their health – and in extreme cases, their lives.

To help keep our community litter free we have a number of litter pickers available for people to borrow, if you are interested in borrowing one please drop Lynn an e-mail on lynn.maddocks@broughtonandmkv-pc.gov.uk