

# East Woodhay & Highclere Coronavirus Community Support



Highclere  
Society



EWH Neighbourcare



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**Neighbourcare** are here for you – one number to have:

- prescriptions delivered
- attending a vaccine / medical appointment
- shopping collected
- a friendly chat on the phone
- or someone to go for walk with

**01635 745 600**



When you go to the gym after lockdown but are not quite sure how to use the equipment

## Halfway to Paradise – so near yet so far away

The words of the late, great Billy Fury (if you are too young to remember him, worth checking out) pretty much sum up where we are on the government's roadmap to regaining normality in our lives.

Next Monday is the day when we start to make a substantial step forward towards life as usual. For many this will be a welcome relief but for others it will be accompanied by a certain nervousness as some protections are removed. It is important therefore that we take a cautious approach to getting together with others if we are to continue to keep a lid on the spread of Covid 19.

## Changes in Guidance

The rules on what you can and cannot do that will change as from next Monday are as follows.

- You will now be able to meet with others in your home. You will be limited to 6 people or 2 households (each household can include a support bubble, if eligible).
- If you are meeting friends and family, you can make a personal choice on whether to keep your distance from them, but you should still be cautious. This advice applies to everyone, including people who are clinically extremely vulnerable and to pregnant women, apart from care home residents where separate guidance applies. Hugs are great but close contact, including hugging, increases the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- Try to meet outside. If you do meet inside, make sure the space is well ventilated. Open windows and doors or take other action to let in plenty of fresh air.
- Indoor hospitality venues such as restaurants, pubs, bars and cafes can reopen. However, service will be restricted to table service and you will be limited to 6 people or 2 households (each household can include a support bubble, if eligible).
- Gathering limits will be eased. Outdoor gatherings will be limited to 30 people.

- Indoor entertainment and attractions such as cinemas, theatres, concert halls, bowling alleys, casinos, amusement arcades, museums and children’s indoor play areas will be permitted to open with COVID-secure measures in place.
- People will be able to attend indoor and outdoor events, including live performances, sporting events and business events. Attendance at these events will be capped according to venue type, and attendees should follow the COVID-secure measures set out by those venues.
- Organised indoor sport for all will be able to take place (this includes gym classes). This must be organised by a business, charity or public body and the organiser must take reasonable measures to reduce the risk of transmission.
- All holiday accommodation will be open (including hotels and B&Bs). This can be used by groups of up to 6 or 2 households (each household can include a support bubble, if eligible).
- Funeral attendance will no longer be limited to 30 people but will be determined by how many people the COVID-secure venue can safely accommodate with social distancing. Limits at weddings, wakes and other commemorative events will be increased to 30 people. Other significant life events, such as bar/bat mitzvahs and christenings, will also be able to take place with 30 people.
- The rules for care home residents visiting out of the home and receiving visitors will change, allowing up to five named visitors (two at any one time), provided visitors test negative for COVID-19.
- All higher education students will be able to access in-person teaching.
- Support groups and parent and child group gathering limits will increase to 30 people (not including under 5s)
- There will no longer be a legal restriction or permitted reason required to travel internationally. There will be a traffic light system for international travel, and you must follow the rules for returning from a green, amber or red listed country. Currently the countries on the green list are:
  - :
 

Australia	New Zealand
Brunei	Portugal (including the Azores and Madeira)
Falkland Islands	Singapore
Faroe Islands	South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands
Gibraltar	St Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha
Iceland	
Israel and Jerusalem	

If you travel to other countries on the amber or red lists who have opened their borders to visitors you will still be required to follow the relevant requirements for quarantine on your return. For all the up-to-date news on countries in each category and the rules click [HERE](#)

**RED:** Passengers will have to pay for a 10-day stay in a managed quarantine hotel, as well as a pre-departure test and two PCR tests on return to the UK

**AMBER:** Travellers will need to quarantine for 10 days, as well as taking a pre-departure test and two PCR tests on return to the UK

**GREEN:** Passengers will not need to quarantine on return\*, but must take a pre-departure test, as well as a PCR test on return to the UK

\*Unless you test positive for coronavirus

## Many Guidelines and Restrictions Remain

### Keeping your distance

Social distancing is still very important.

You should follow the guidance on [how to stop the spread of coronavirus](#) at all times, including if you have been vaccinated against COVID-19. If you leave your home:

- stay at least 2 metres away from people you do not live with or who are not in your support bubble
- reduce the time spent in crowded areas where it may be difficult to socially distance (such as shops and supermarkets)
- avoid direct contact and face to face contact with people you do not live with

Stay at least 2 metres away from anyone who visits your home for work reasons such as a cleaner or a tradesperson doing essential or urgent work.

### Wash hands and clean surfaces regularly to remove virus particles.

No matter where you are or what you are doing, following the basic rules of good hygiene will help to protect you and others from COVID-19. These are:

- washing your hands
- cleaning your surroundings
- covering your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze

### Take the vaccine when you are offered it and encourage others to as well.

Vaccines reduce (but do not eliminate) the chances of catching COVID-19 and passing it on, and of serious illness. Consider whether you and your loved ones are vaccinated and whether there has been time for the vaccine to take effect before being in close contact.

### Wear a face mask

You must continue to wear a face covering in many indoor settings, such as shops and places of worship, and on public transport, unless you are exempt or have a reasonable excuse.

### You can get tested twice a week, even if you don't have symptoms.

Around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus do not show symptoms, so can spread the virus to others without knowing. Testing regularly will help to reduce risk, particularly before meeting people from outside your household. You can order free home tests for you and your loved ones that give results in 30 minutes. (Click [HERE](#))

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## So Near but Not There Yet

Step 4 of the Government's roadmap to resuming normal life is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> June when it is hoped to remove all restrictions. To be able to take that step it is vital that current progress in containing Covid 19 is maintained. This can only happen if there is no spread of new variants and we all continue to use our common sense and caution in enjoying the new freedoms available from Monday, observing the rules and regulations that remain in place.

This guidance applies to England only. Different rules apply in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. You need to act in accordance with their regulations if travelling to those countries. For further information click [HERE](#)

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## Vaccinations – The Racecourse and Beyond

The vaccination hub at Newbury racecourse will close in mid-June when 2<sup>nd</sup> doses to those in cohorts 1-9 have been completed.

During the time the hub has been open they have administered over 50,000 vaccinations, featured in a national photo montage as part of a showcase of the people behind the vaccination effort and involved doctors and nurses from all the participating surgeries as well as a 400 strong army of volunteers. Praise for the efficient way in which the service has been run has been universal and thanks must go to all involved including Newbury racecourse and their staff.

In addition, in early April some of the GP's and practice staff set themselves a challenge to complete the virtual Land's End to John O'Groats and back distance, some 3,154km in just 50 days by running or cycling. The initial aim was to raise £500 which was to be split 50/50 between 2 causes – supporting the UNICEF drive to deliver vaccines into 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries in which they aim to help deliver 2 billion doses worldwide. The second cause is local mental health support in Newbury by donating to local charities. The target was quickly reached and passed, raising nearly £2,500 in total.

Recently, there have been some instances of people not arriving for their appointments. Delivery schedules for second doses are matched to first dose clinics and please ensure that you let your GP surgery know if you cannot make an appointment so that it can be offered to someone else.

When you are contacted to receive your vaccination click on the link provided. The national booking scheme **is** busy but clinics and appointment slots are being added all the time so please keep trying. Today the Kennet Shopping centre has started taking bookings and soon Boots in Northbrook Street will become operational. These will appear on the national sites when you are booking but in the meantime there are a number of sites all within a 30 minute drive of Newbury.

We have been fortunate to have had the Racecourse facility so close in Newbury to assist those older and more vulnerable members of our community in receiving their vaccinations quickly and easily somewhere close to home, thanks again to all those involved.

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## Prescription Deliveries

Neighbourcare are still delivering repeat prescriptions for those who don't pay or pre-pay. We deliver three times a week on **Tuesday, Thursday and Friday**.

Deliveries are collected from the surgery at 11am and dependent on the number of prescriptions for delivery will usually be with you within an hour or so.

Please contact us as soon as you receive notification from the surgery and all we ask is that you are at home to take delivery of your medication.

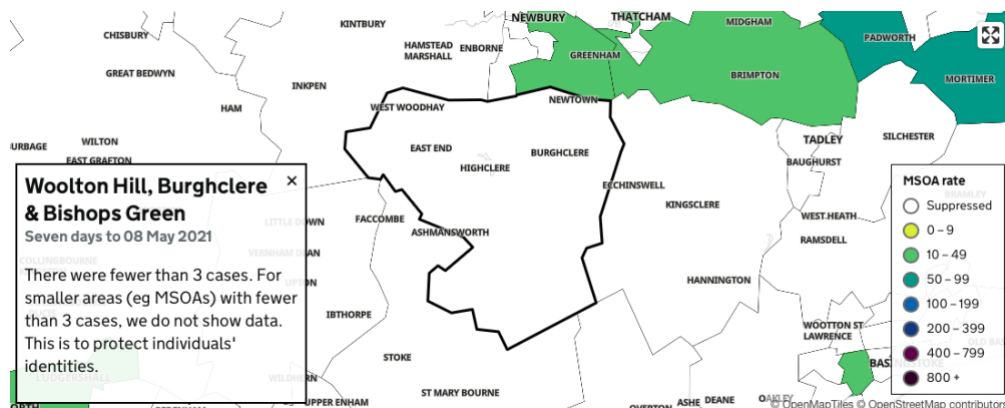
The Neighbourcare number is **01635 745600**

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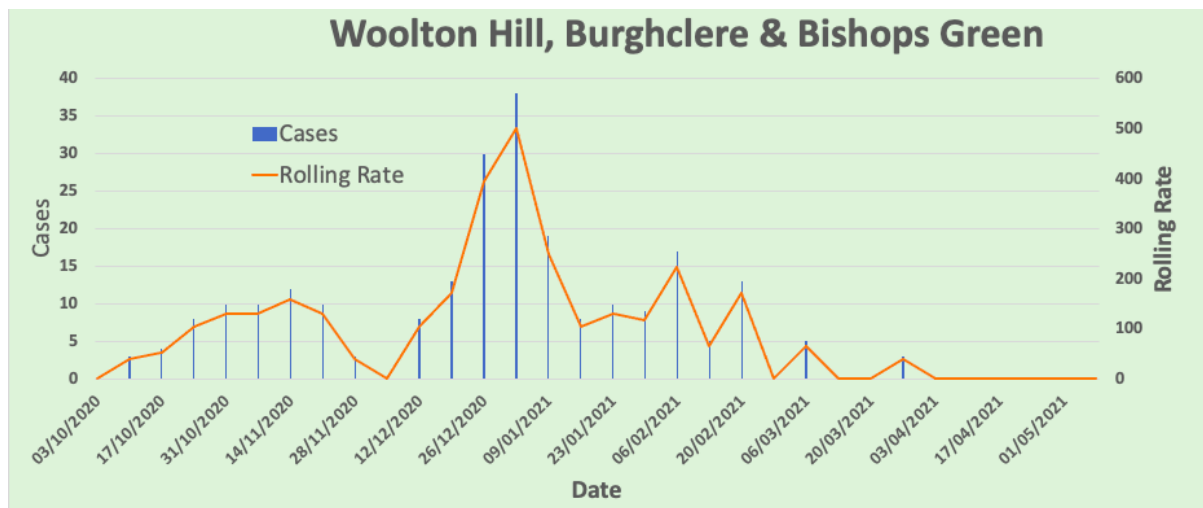
## Latest Local COVID-19 Cases

The good news we reported in the previous newsletters continues and in recent weeks of reporting there have been fewer than three confirmed cases of Covid-19 in our local area.

The last time we had 3 or more confirmed Covid cases was in the week ending 27<sup>th</sup> March.



Shown below is the trend over time. The source to the original data is [HERE](#)



## From the Rector: Revd Canon Christine Dale



Greetings and blessings to you all.

Arrangements with church services change little into the next part of the road map. We are still required to wear face coverings, observe social distancing and are still not permitted to sing hymns in church – although a small choir may sing, or a hymn may be sung by everyone outdoors. The main change will be that numbers who can attend a **funeral** will no longer be restricted to 30, but by the capacity of the church building in use when social distancing is observed. For us this means our larger buildings can usually accommodate around 40, the smaller churches fewer.

We have now been able to reschedule many of the pastoral services postponed or delayed by the pandemic, and with these and other enquiries that have come in we are now fully booked for **Baptisms** (christenings) to the end of August (even with extra services which I and Canon Marvin have added to the schedule!). I rejoice that we are able to plan to welcome families for these joyful occasions once again!

Also, this Sunday we are able at last to hold a **Confirmation Service**, it has been postponed three times(!) and the six young people to be confirmed began their preparation in February last year! So, we rejoice that finally the Bishop of Basingstoke will come and join us to confirm our young people in the Christian faith, all be it in a much quieter service than would normally be the case. (This service is fully booked.)

In the meantime, we continue to hold Sunday services both in church and on 'zoom'. We hope that following 21<sup>st</sup> June it will indeed be possible to remove many of the restrictions on services – but of course we must wait and see how things go. This **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May** we have an online zoom service at 9.30am, Parish Communion at 11.00am in St Michael & All Angels', Highclere, and Evensong at 6pm in St Michael & All Angels', Crux Easton. If you would like to join our e-mail circulation for all details and joining codes for online services, please send your e-mail address to me (*contact details below*).

All our church buildings continue to be open for private prayer on Sundays. *St James', Ashmansworth 9.30am-4.30pm; St Michael & All Angels', Crux Easton 10am-3pm; St Martin's,*

East Woodhay 11am-3pm; St Michael & All Angels', Highclere 11am-12.30pm; St Thomas', Woolton Hill 10am-4pm.

If you want to ask for prayer, please do contact Canon Marvin (254718) or me (253323). with every blessing to you all,

Revd. Canon Christine Dale  
(e-mail: [cdale001@btinternet.com](mailto:cdale001@btinternet.com), Tel. 01635 253323)



## Activities – Staying In

Here are a few ideas if the weather is wet:

### Hampshire Young Poets prize competition – ‘Hopes & Dreams’

3 Age categories 4-7, 8-11, 12-16 years. Poems of up to 14 lines about your hopes and dreams for the future. Closing date July 31<sup>st</sup> click [HERE](#) for details

Ardington School continues to offer **on line art talks and craft workshops** through the summer, as well as in the classroom. Click [HERE](#) for details.

**Diana’s Clay Club** – collect clay, instructions, video links from local sculptor Diana Pattenden and have fun. Diana will fire your creations click [HERE](#)

**Local Author and ex Police Area Commander, Simon Bowden** has written a debut novel - ‘Hidden by the Law’. Crime and intrigue set in the towns of Berkshire. Now available from usual booksellers.

## Tomorrow - Market and Plant Sale

### Woolton Hill Outdoor Village Market –

This coming Saturday (15<sup>th</sup> May) is the first Village Market of the year and it's bigger and better than ever! 27 stalls, all outside, including seven newcomers and live music from Scampy, an acoustic duo, to entertain you in the refreshment area.

Usual favourites, including fresh Devon fish, artisan cheese, freshly-baked bread, Arabica coffee, local high-welfare meat. Plus, new stuff – pet treats, goat meat, pies, oyster mushrooms hand-carved boards and hats.

Everything is being planned to create a safe and pleasant environment in which to shop.

The Friends of Woolton Hill Junior School (FWHJS) will be running the tea room. Please come and have some tea/coffee and delicious cake. All profits from the tea room will go to the FWHJS to support the Junior school.

**Plant & Jumble Sale** In aid of the East Woodhay Flower Show and East Woodhay Village Hall Tomorrow - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May - outside 2pm at East Woodhay village Hall (RG20 0AP) Masks to be worn.

## NEW VENUE! WOOLTON HILL OUTDOOR MARKET

**WE'RE BACK! SCHOOL FIELD AVAILABLE TO SIT ON A  
BLANKET TO ENJOY OUR REFRESHMENTS**



**LIVE MUSIC!** Woolton Hill Junior School  
**SATURDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY**  
11am - 2pm

## Activities – Going Out

### West Berks & North Hampshire Open Studios – FREE entry

Over 100 artists are taking part. Local artists & venues open from 17th include:-

Silk / textiles – Christine Highnett, Wash Water

Ceramics – Kevin Akhurst, Sally Courage, Teresa Munn, Moya Tosh, Whitway

Painting – Lucy de Albuquerque, Karen Carter, North End

Drawing & Painting – Amanda Bates, Kingsclere

See full listing, individual artist pages will show days open & how to book [HERE](#)

### Wildlife Photographer of the Year (on loan from the Natural History Museum)

Exhibition at the Base, New Greenham Park, from 17th. For tickets book [HERE](#)

### Raymond Briggs retrospective – were you a fan of Fungus the Bogeyman? Or the Snowman?

Many original artworks by Briggs are on display at the Winchester Discovery Centre from 17<sup>th</sup> May. for tickets click [HERE](#)

### Outdoor Theatre at the Watermill

*The Hound of the Baskervilles* – wonderful comedy rendition with 3 cast members playing all parts. In the garden, whatever the weather. From 21<sup>st</sup> May. Book [HERE](#)

### Visit a Garden

The National Garden Scheme lists gardens open for charity over the coming weeks. Click [HERE](#)

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## Welcome to Paul Davies - new Headteacher in Woolton Hill

It was never intended to be a lockdown project, but it rather turned out that way.

Early last year St Thomas' Church Infant School and Woolton Hill Junior School both had vacancies for a Headteacher at the same time and the two governing bodies began discussing the possibility of federating. The aim being to build a closer partnership between the schools to enable a smoother transition and continuous curriculum to benefit all children on their journey from reception to year 6. The governing bodies appointed a joint working group to work on this and a public consultation was run last summer term. With positive feedback and support, the Federation of the Schools of Woolton Hill became official in September. A single governing body was established and the recruitment of an Executive Headteacher to lead the federation forward began.

To cut a long story short we were delighted to welcome Mr Paul Davies, already an experienced Headteacher, to this new role at the start of this summer term. Mr Davies is bringing our federation fresh energy and enthusiasm and is busy getting to know families and working with staff in both schools, and the governors.

His first wider community engagement was, at the invitation of East Woodhay Parish Council, to officially open the newly surfaced permissive path across the parish field in Woolton Hill.

Along with other users of this path, a number of local school children will now be able to safely walk to school away from busy roads and without getting muddy feet in wet weather!



## Naturewatch

The Andover Peregrines nesting on the roof of St. Mary's Church now have 3 hungry chicks – watch them grow on the live webcam [HERE](#) . Scroll back through the timeline for feeding time. Other local peregrine cams are available from Bournemouth, Winchester and Salisbury.

## Your Photos



Thanks to Roger Clarke for this picture of an adder on the path in Penwood, roughly 50cm long



Carole Thelwall-Jones took this graceful kite at Coombe Gibbet



There are many lovely bluebells in the area.

These were taken in the woods at Alma Farm (between Westridge and Hollington Lane)

**Send us an image** – We are always pleased to see your favourite local views – email images for future newsletters to [EWCleresNews21@gmail.com](mailto:EWCleresNews21@gmail.com)

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