



EDITORIAL

Congratulating all our Community Champions

As we emerge from three months of lockdown, with shops, pubs and attractions starting to reopen, it is a good time to reflect on how, as a community, we have coped during these unprecedented times.

The award to Colin Woods, who runs our excellent village shop, as the first recipient of a new Community Champions accolade presented by our local MP, Andrew Griffith, was not only well deserved but also public recognition of all the hard work that has been going on, much of it behind the scenes, to help keep us safe and to ensure that essential supplies have been maintained.

The Helpline Hub, established right at the outset of the lockdown, has done a truly remarkable job in co-ordinating all the activity, monitoring suspected Covid-19 cases and establishing the network of Neighbourhood Volunteers.

It has maintained a round-the-clock dedicated telephone line for people to report potential symptoms and to provide support should it be necessary. It has issued daily updates of Government guidance on health, safety, funding for furloughed employees and help for businesses and the self-employed. There has been a daily online video-conference call and a similar weekly event for the Neighbourhood Volunteers to ensure everyone is fully briefed.

A dedicated website (www.amberleyhelpline.co.uk) has been established, full of useful information, with the local services, wellbeing and government guidance sections being most popular.

In short, it has been a textbook example of how to organise and run things in a crisis at a local level.

While no one has been keeping a record of their time spent involved with the Helpline Hub, a conservative estimate is somewhere between 40 and 60 hours in any given week.

Then there are the statistics. The Neighbourhood Volunteer force numbers 20, covering all four parishes. The additional 25 shop volunteers have delivered 8,000 bags of shopping to 240 homes and are currently distributing around 500 bags a week. Three volunteer couples have helped The Sportsman deliver a total of 3,431 meals (of which 1,749 were fish and chips) to almost 160 households over the three-month period.

Then there are all those who have been busy sewing face-masks and making bags for hospitals and care homes, and the resourceful compilers of the online pandemic quiz.

All this has helped keep us safe, fed, watered and sane. It is a tribute to all that there were only 25 suspected cases of Covid-19, spread over nine households, reported early in the lockdown, with the final case on March 20. It could have been so much worse. Our heartfelt thanks to all our Community Champions.
Mike Toynbee

St Michael's Church Amberley
Our animals are a blessing to us
Let's celebrate and thank God for them!

Sunday 9th August 10.00am

PET BLESSING SERVICE

on the Millennium Green

Bring your pet –
or bring a photo of a loved pet
Dogs on lead and other small pets in carriers please.



*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

May weather

In what was the sunniest spring since records began in 1929, it was also the driest May on record in some parts of England for 124 years. Rainfall here was negligible – a mere 6.5mm or a quarter of an inch. There were only two days during the month when it rained, three days with nothing more than a trace, and 26 completely dry days. May last year was also an unusually dry month with just 13.3mm (half an inch) of rain. Total rainfall for the first five months of 2020 amounted to 376.66mm (15in), roughly half that during the corresponding period last year, and almost exactly the same as in 2018.

Figures compiled by Peter Daughtrey



Deadline for the September issue is Friday, August 14, 2020

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