

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2020

Dear Oxspring Resident

We hope this newsletter finds you well. Although life is not back to normal (or rather that we are living a “New normal”), we would like to provide you with an update from the Parish Council of what we have been doing over the last few months and of some of the things that have been going on in Oxspring. Although regular Parish Council meetings have not taken place, the Parish Council is still here to serve the Parish and we are still contactable for any relevant issues you may have. Your Parish Councillors.

COVID-19 VOLUNTEERS

What a wonderful community we have in Oxspring. We have had so many people volunteering to help over the long period that we have been on shut down, and the Parish Council would like to extend a huge thank you to every single one of you for all your help and support over what has been a very difficult time for some of our residents. Below are a sample of some of the things we know you have been up to:

- ***The Oxspring Buddies***, a group of volunteers (32 in total) got together to provide help to Oxspring residents in need during the unprecedented time of the pandemic. They started when lock-down was implemented to ensure that any residents requiring help had a named contact, In total they were given the names of 35 residents who might need help during lock-down, all of whom received a letter with their appointed contact's name and telephone number and details of what they could offer – help with shopping, posting mail, collecting prescriptions or other urgent supplies, or perhaps just keeping in touch with a friendly telephone call.

Whilst many of the residents managed to remain independent or had family help, about one third contacted their 'buddy' for help with shopping, collecting prescriptions and that friendly telephone call. Two of the volunteers also provided their buddies with culinary delights!

Not every volunteer was 'buddied up' and not every volunteer buddied was called upon, but there was always the capacity to be able to provide the service, when called upon, even in an emergency!

With such a great group of volunteers, it would be lovely to think that as we move forward from this Coronavirus pandemic, that we will continue to support all our Oxspring neighbours.

A special thank you should go to Jane Harding who was responsible for the co-ordination of this project and if you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact her on 0789 9937842

- ***Helen Sparks and family*** spent four weeks collecting litter across the Parish and filled 21 black bin bags with rubbish,. They covered the whole of Oxspring and it gave purpose to

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some of their walks which they actually found quite addictive. They even waded in the river which we are sure both adults and kids found highly enjoyable.

- You may be aware that during the lock-down many of the jobs undertaken by BMBC (grass cutting etc.) were temporarily cancelled and some of the village residents took it upon themselves to help with keeping the village tidy and looking something like presentable. A really big thank you to **the residents on Sheffield Road and Roughbirchworth** who took it upon themselves to keep the grass verges at the front of their houses mown and presentable. It makes a huge difference when you drive through the village to see things looking tidy.*
- **The Oxspring Titivators** have also kept things moving although this has not been easy whilst trying to maintain their social distancing requirement. Nevertheless, they have managed to weed Gordon's Garden, tidy the flower beds in the football field car park and try to keep on top of the grass cutting in Bower Dell (not an easy job when you don't have heavy duty grass cutting equipment). Litter picking has also been ongoing and many visitors to the village comment on the lack of litter when they drive through or visit the TPT in our area.*

*A special thank you needs to be extended to **Graham Sedgwick** for all his efforts to create another couple of garden areas in the football field car park. Work is ongoing in these areas and you will start to see new plants growing in this area sometime soon. Graham has also planted new trees that were donated by Barnsley Council, and also kept them watered during the very long dry spell that we had in May. Not an easy task when there is no water supply nearby. Again a really big thank you to Graham for all his efforts and a big thank you to **Alan Walker and Roger Rose** for all their help in helping to keep the village tidy and welcoming (not bad for septuagenarians!)*

*Another resident, **Shaun Swallow**, has also been volunteering to help with the group and helped with the dismantling of a picnic bench in Bower Dell which was deliberately set on fire. He has also helped with some minor repairs to the dry stone wall at the car park entrance near the children's play area and with some grass cutting and other jobs in the village.*

- We also need to thank **Mr David Shirtliffe** who also took it upon himself to tidy up the weeds growing in and around Mayfield and also helped with the widening of the path around the football field. He painstakingly started clearing the overgrown footpath around the football field at the back of his home and then also helped the contractor who undertook the scraping of the path to ensure that all the overgrown grass was removed from the path, thereby keeping access open and suitable for all users.*
- We know that there have also been other volunteers busy doing odd jobs in the village although we are not aware of their names, and once again, we would like to extend a huge thank you to them and to anyone else who has in any way shape or form contributed to making Oxspring, the village that we all want to live in.*

ONCE AGAIN, A REALLY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED IN ANY WAY DURING THE VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION WE FOUND OURSELVES IN. THE PARISH COUNCIL SENDS YOU A REALLY BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE

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PARISH COUNCIL WORK

Although the Parish Council has been unable to meet, work has continued to make sure that routine tasks have been completed.

- *The annual audit of the Parish's Accounts was undertaken and appropriately signed off.*
- *Work has been done to repaint/seal all the wooden seats in the Parish.*
- *Work has been done to widen the footpath around the football field which had become very overgrown.*
- *The dry stone walls on Sheffield Road, at the entrance to the children's play area and at the entrance to the football field car park have all been repaired, although vandals persist in their efforts to remove the toppings.*
- *A weed spraying contractor was appointed to spray around the footpath in the football field and one or two other areas and we liaised with Barnsley Council to see if we could get the roadsides cleared of weeds along Sheffield Road. Barnsley Council advised us that they no longer undertake this task as it is against their Environmental Policies. Consequently, the Parish Council paid a contractor to undertake this work on their behalf and the verges now look much better.*
- *Barnsley MBC have now repaired the fence on the corner of Lower Roughbirchworth and Bower Hill that was damaged by vandals earlier in the year. This was obviously of some concern to the Parish Council as the drop at the bottom of Lower Roughbirchworth is considerable.*
- *Plant donations continue to come in from residents in the village and these plants are being planted across a number of areas, but mainly in Gordon's Garden and in the football field car park. Thank you to all those residents who donated plants for use in the village.*
- *The Parish Council has also had a number of trees donated by Barnsley Council. These include Rowan Trees, some fruit trees and some Blackthorn trees (sloe bushes) which have again been planted in a variety of places throughout the village.*
- *Once again, hanging baskets have been put up around the village which will ensure that we have a good display of colour throughout the coming year and we have also installed planters to the front fence of the Willows bungalows which face Sheffield Road and we would like to extend our thanks to those residents who keep them watered for us through the summer months.*
- *Some of you keen eyed residents may have noticed that we have now erected a permanent barrier in front of the area where the Christmas tree is placed in December, and two of the Oxspring signs have been renovated and relocated to the front of this barrier.*

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OTHER NEWS

VE DAY

Although we were in lock down on VE day, that did not stop people partying (whilst still social distancing) and we enjoyed a fantastic afternoon on the Tolbar estate with music, balloons, bunting and people having a picnic on their own lawns. We had a super rendition of We'll Meet Again and Churchill's speech was played over the loudspeaker after we had we all participated in the two minutes silence. Entertainment was provided by Alan Walker, Mick Brook and James Mclean Jnr. And we would like to thank them for their musical contributions. A good day all round which made everyone feel a little happier during somewhat stressful times.

OXSPRING VARIETY SHOW

It has been suggested that we consider hosting a village variety show at St Aidan's at some time in the future and we are aware that we have a host of people residing in the village with all sorts of different talents. You don't have to be musical, although musicians are very welcome; you could be a stand up comedian, or a actor/actress, singer, poet, juggler etc. etc. If you think you would like to take part in something like this and would be willing to say, perform for approximately ten minutes, then please contact Ann Walker on 01226 379895 or at walker761@talktalk.net.

AUDITING OF THE PARISH ACCOUNTS

There is a requirement for the Parish Council to have its accounts audited and a local resident Mr Dean Howford has very kindly undertaken this work on behalf of the Parish Council for a number of years. Unfortunately, due to work commitments, he is no longer able to volunteer his services and we therefore wish to say a really big thank you for his contributions over the years which has saved the Council the expense of having to pay someone to undertake this work. We will now endeavour to find someone who is suitably qualified to undertake this work on behalf of the Parish Council. We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to Dean for his voluntary work on the Parish's behalf.

WARD COUNCILLORS

We would like to say a big thank you to both Councillor John Wilson and Councillor Robert Barnard for their ongoing support with the many issues that we face due to funding cuts and the Coronavirus pandemic. They can't always work miracles, but we know that they do their very best to help whenever we call upon them.

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CHILDREN'S PLAYAREA CAR PARK

You may have noticed one or two overnight campers staying in the children's play area car park. This is due to a recently introduced phone app/internet site called Camp for the Night, which highlights all those areas across the whole of the country where campers can park, free of charge for one night. (PLEASE NOTE THIS HAS NOT BEEN AGREED TO OR AUTHORISED BY THE PARISH COUNCIL) Unfortunately, Oxspring is denoted as having one of these areas and consequently in the not too distant future you will see some new signs being erected advising people that they cannot park/camp overnight in this area.

TREE WORKS IN OXSPRING

The Parish Council regularly checks the state of health of the trees on its land and over the summer much work has been done to cut back, in some cases remove self setters and generally make sure that areas below the trees are safe for vehicles and pedestrians alike. We have programmed work to be undertaken in the children's play area sometime in September and the play ground will have to be closed whilst this work is undertaken. We will give advance notice on the parish's web site and in social media. We have also cut back trees in the football field, and in the Rookery and removed quite a lot of self seeded trees to make the areas a little more open. We hired a responsible tree surgeon to undertake this work on our behalf and the trees in both these areas are now much safer and should in the longer term prove to be more healthy.

COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

Work has started on the Community/family allotment, although the pandemic has slowed the progress. It will be situated in the allotments site at the top of Bower Hill near the cross roads. If any individual/couple or family wish to be involved in the project's evolution however small or great please get in touch, either through Emily Gratton-Rayson, craftygardener3@gmail.com, or directly to Oxspring Parish Council.

Emily will put up regular updates around the village and if you want to send her your email she will let you know directly about all developments and dates.

MULTI USE GAMES AREA

The Parish Council is still hoping to get this project off the ground. The plan is to install a MUGA on the basketball pitch in the playing field on Sheffield Road, with the help of funding from BMBC. Watch this space!

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OXSPRING SPORTS AND COMMUNITY SPORTS CLUB (DISSOLUTION)

This charitable organisation was set up some years ago with the main aim of building a new sports facility on the Parish's football field. This was a very ambitious project which unfortunately coincided with England winning the bid to host the Olympic Games in 2016. Insufficient funding was therefore forthcoming and unfortunately the project had to be mothballed. The Parish Council is now attempting to resurrect the scheme, albeit it on a much smaller scale and the remaining funds from the initial project have now been transferred to the Parish Council. These funds will be used to help us with the new sports facility project and several people from across the village have already indicated that they would like to be involved in the project. If you would like to know more about this or would like to be involved with the fund raising element, or feel you have other skills that could be useful to the project, please contact Ann Walker on 01226 379895 or by email: walker761@talktalk.net.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

*The Parish Council website is www.Oxspring-parish.com
On the website you can find all publicly available documents, plus a wealth of other information about Oxspring. If you have a news item for the website please contact the clerk at clerk@oxspring-parish.com*

FIBRE BROADBAND

Unlimited Faster Fibre broadband is now available in Oxspring. Contact your current provider for further details.

OXSPRING PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2020

These are proposed meeting dates and are subject to change due to COVID-19 restrictions. All updates will be announced on the Parish Council website.

At Saint Aidan's Church

<i>Monday 7th September</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>
<i>Monday 5th October</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>
<i>Monday 2nd November</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>
<i>Monday 7th December</i>	<i>7.15pm</i>

The public may attend for 10 minutes at the beginning of each meeting

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YOUR COUNCIL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors

Chair - Ann Walker: Tel 379895, Email: walker761@talktalk.net
Vice Chair - Graham Sedgwick: Tel 764350, Email: graham.sedgwick@talktalk.net
Lisa Chambers Tel 07900384633, Email: fretwell75@aol.com
Ian Goldthorpe: Tel 766362, Email: ri.goldthorpe@pobroadband.co.uk
Emily Gratton-Rayson: Tel 766322, Email: craftygardener3@gmail.com
Norma McKay: Tel 766152, Email: norma.mckay51@btinternet.com
Ian Stanley: Tel 764220, Email: jacquelinestanley12@yahoo.com

Parish Clerk

Stephanie Tolson: Tel: 792657, Email: clerk@oxspring-parish.com

BMBC Penistone East Ward Councillors

Robert Barnard: Tel 382861, Email: CllrRobertBarnard@barnsley.gov.uk
John Wilson: Tel 243497, Email: CllrJohnWilson@barnsley.gov.uk
Paul Hand-Davis: Tel 773148, Email: CllrPaulHand-Davis@barnsley.gov.uk

MP for Penistone & Stocksbridge

Miriam Cates: Tel 02072193000, Email: mariam.cates.mp@parliament.uk

SOMETHING TO REPORT TO BARNESLEY COUNCIL?

Abandoned Vehicles	772468	Pest Control	772468
Dog Fouling	772468	Planning Applications	772000
Illegal dumping/fly tipping	772468	Public Rights of ways	772142
Fly Posting/tipping	775656	Potholes/Road repairs	773555
Flooded Roads	773555	Street lighting faults	774200
Footpaths roadside	773555	Traffic Light faults	773555
Graffiti	775656	Refuse collection/recycling	772045
Gritting/snow clearing	773555	Noise complaints	772468
Grass cutting/weed killing	775656	Litter Bins/street sweeping	775656
Household Waste recycling	774215	BMBC Switchboard	770770