

Parish Council News

November 2020

With the virus still with us, we try to cope, survive and emerge and meanwhile do our best. Our **community spirit and volunteers** are still in place; Corona Kindness to give support and The Community Cupboard for those in need; both contactable through ReadyCall on goudhurst.org.uk or the council clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have supported them and those who have donated time and supplies to help others. This is our Community at its best.

On a positive note the **new Goudhurst Play Area** is open and hugely enjoyed by all those who have rediscovered it. Many children are back at school and play schools. We have a new **duck house** for the pond, for which we are just waiting for an anchor and then it can be floated (strange it did not come with one!). Many of us are being vaccinated against the 'flu at least, thank you Nurse Brenda for wielding the needle and Ed Bates with his traffic cones.

Destination Goudhurst is making progress (see August Parish Council News) all businesses in the High Street have been engaged. We have also engaged with the Parish Hall and Social Club Committees and The Friends of St Mary's. Everyone is keen to do their best to ensure that Goudhurst puts its best foot forward for visitors and residents alike. We plan further engagement with other active Goudhurst community groups so that the consultation is complete, and our action committee is fully representative. Being realistic we plan to use the shut down period to ensure that as individuals and businesses re-emerge, we are all ready by spring/summer 2021.

All this village consulting has brought up one significant and recurring theme: the **average age** of most of those contributing to the wellbeing of the community. It is inverse to most of those who have negative comments on what they think the village and the council should be doing to contribute to their wellbeing. It brings very much to mind that famous remark from JFK on his inauguration "Ask not what your country can do for you - **ask what you can do for your country**" substitute Goudhurst or Tunbridge Wells and it is equally relevant to us here today. Goudhurst is a wonderful place to live and bring up children; good schools, shops, churches and many great activities. But all ages are not playing their proper part in helping to run things. So, if you live in our village and wish to continue to enjoy everything our village does now and or could offer, then if you are not helping already, please do so. Otherwise, many of these good things will die out as many of those who provide their time and

effort die out. Everyone in our community can help in large part or small to make our parish an even better place. So please ask yourself, your family or your neighbours – are we contributing and if not, why not! In this covid time of community inter-dependence it is not a bad time to start. Next month we will provide a suggestion list of many of the ways **you** can help and how to make contact and please **tell your friends**.

Finally, something practical. As anyone who has taken their waste or surplus to the TW Municipal dump may have noticed, it is horrifying what is being thrown away. Many are things that could be reused: furniture, clothes, toys (some even unopened). What a waste! Why chuck it, when with a little thought, you could donate it – to a charity, and for now think local. Open on weekday school mornings at the Church Rooms by the play area, the **Goudhurst Village Pre-school**, are fundraising, selling children's clothes, books and toys. So, if you have any items that would help them and relieve space in the cupboard, give them a thought and pop round, they will be pleased to see you or call 01580 212777.

The Parish Council is keen to improve **communication with the community**, especially during these restricted times. To ensure you, family, friends and neighbours keep up to date on Parish News contact clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk and we will ensure you receive a copy by email.

Your Parish Councillors ... David Boniface, Craig Broom, Chris Ditton, Alan Foster, Antony Harris (Chairman), Phil Kirkby, David Knight, Barry Noakes, Caroline Richards, Jayne Russell, Guy Sutton and Peter Wood.

Clerk to Council. Claire Reed, 01580 212552 and clerk@goudhurst-pc.gov.uk.