

The Brancepeth Update

Issue Three 2 April 2020

Message from the Editor

We managed to get the second issue out to over 70 households, and I understand it has been read as far away as New Zealand (our daughter in lockdown at Otago University in Dunedin) and the States (I don't know who that is but hello from Brancepeth!)

If you know anybody who would like a copy please give them my email address and ask them to email me their request to be on the mailing list.

Thank you for all your contributions and suggestions. Please keep them coming.

Go well, stay well.

Love Gillian

0191373 9420 gillian@smellie.com

Warning for Dog Walkers

Please be aware that somebody has left a substance similar to granular fertiliser all around the gate to the field in the village.

Richard Jackson and Philip Pickles have cleared it away and sluiced the area down with hot water but please take care when walking your dogs in the area.

Even if your dog does not ingest it, it can cause very unpleasant burns on a dog's

Message from St Brandon's

I do hope you'll join us for the Palm Sunday service on Sunday shared online via Zoom. We won't be able to carry a cross through the village this year, but we will be welcomed into Brancepeth Castle, to sing our favourite Palm Sunday hymns and, thanks to Richard Hird's pilgrimages, share photos of the very route that Jesus took as he entered Jerusalem. Please contact Hester (0191 597 4675) if you would like an invitation.

In preparation, why not make your own cross, in place of the palm crosses we usually receive, using whatever materials you have to hand- paper, wool, string, ribbon, cardboard. There will be services throughout Holy Week at 7.30pm on Zoom, with opportunities

Village Support Network

If you would like help with errands, shopping, picking up prescriptions, walking your dog any one of the people listed below would be delighted to help you. This is in addition to the formal support which will be offered by the government to those extremely vulnerable people who are being shielded.

Jessie Brown	0191 378 2748
Sheila Chapman	0191 378 4408
Ian Stoker	0191 378 4986
James & Jo Dalton	0191 378 0771
Dave Armstrong	07843 343 846
Josie Armstrong	07882 233118
Geoff & Margot Harrison	0191 378 9908
Bea Basu	07714 764203
Vivienne Lowe	0191 378 0974
Deborah Hodge	01388 745455
Anna & Nick Brooker	0191 378 0578
Jayne Gardarsson	0191 378 1483
Gillian Smellie	0191 373 9420
Stephanie Snowball	07761 089183
Claire Staines	0191 378 0858
Cheryl McEwan	07795 440016.
Janiesse Spence	0191 435 6357
Paul Spence	0770 703949
Hester & Mike Higton	0191 597 4675
Amy Gooding	07753 606115
Richard Gooding	0191 386 9651
Carol Beeby	07592 975002
Sue Morgan	0191 378 1172
Caroline Middleditch	07729 277072

for reflection and prayer beautiful music and homilies from members of the congregation. There will be two services on Good Friday: at 10.15am for families and at 1.30pm a more traditional Good Friday service, all online via zoom.

We continue to pray daily for our community please send any prayer requests to Deborah Hodge (01388 745455).

Best wishes to all, and please keep in touch.
Anna

The Laetitia Cropley Cookery Challenge



In honour of one of my favourite characters from the Vicar of Dibley, Laetitia Cropley, aka the Cordon Bleu Chef, we are instigating the Laetitia Cropley Cookery Challenge.

Each week one brave villager will open their fridge and reveal three vaguely related ingredients found therein.

The challenge, open to all, wherever you are, and children and adults alike, is to create an edible meal for two adults using only those three fridge ingredients and basic store cupboard ingredients.

We will publish the most inventive, the tastiest sounding and possibly the ones that we think would make Laetitia proud but we don't ever want to have to eat!

This week Josie Armstrong would like you to get creative with:

- ½ large jar of roasted red peppers in oil
- 1 tub of crème fraiche
- 2 free range chicken breasts

Bird watch

Despite the snow over the weekend, it is definitely spring. David Jackson's lambs offer a welcome wake up call each morning, the geese have arrived on our pond and the variety of birds at the bird table is increasing daily.

So far here at Morley Farm we have spotted:

- Greylag geese nesting on our pond.
- Buzzards
- A heron
- Pheasants

On the bird table:

- Coal tits
- Blue tits
- Robins
- Sparrows
- Nuthatch
- Magpies

Local Farm Shops

In addition to the list of shops offering delivery to DH7 several farm shops are offering pick up services. You ring your order through and they will have it ready for you to pick up at the gate/carpark with minimal contact. Some can offer delivery, particularly for those who are vulnerable and/or are working in the NHS. Please ring to check.



Perhaps if you are placing an order you could check if your neighbours would like to place one too and then only one person has to do the pick up.

[Broom House Farm](#)

[Cross Lanes Farm](#)

[Homer Hill Farm](#)

[Broom Mill Farm](#)

[Aldin Grange Farm Shop](#)

Donna's Fruit and Vegetables in Spennymoor is also delivering to Brancepeth 0748 5043568

Crows (not sure which)
Blackbirds
Wood Pigeon
Starlings
Greenfinch

We have heard:

Barn owls
Tawny owls



What have you spotted in your garden or flying overhead? Do you know any good websites or books for the beginner birdspotter? Please share them with us.

Durham Wildlife Trust

Meanwhile The Durham Wildlife Trust have a range of activity packs called Wild@Home (new ones released every Monday) available [here](#). This week's theme is *Signs of Spring*.

Go to the theatre in your own home



You get the best seats in the house, your own choice of snacks and no queues at the bar!

The National Theatre is streaming a different play every Thursday at 7pm on its [Youtube Channel](#) starting on 2nd April.

The Hampstead Theatre has three shows available to watch [here](#).

Cheek by Jowl's 2017 production of *A Winter's Tale* performed at the Barbican is available to watch [here](#) until 27 April.

The West End production of *The Wind in the Willows* is available [here](#).

Pentabus Rural Touring Company tours village halls throughout the country and you can watch their latest production *Here I am* [here](#).

Maya Arad Yasur's award winning play *Amsterdam* performed at the Orange Tree Theatre is available to watch [here](#).

Greenwich Theatre is launching Flashback Fridays and will be live streaming previous productions on Facebook at 7.30pm every Friday. Watch with friends and family wherever they are. More details [here](#).

The hit Fringe production *Timpson the Musical* has put its best foot forward and released a full recording online! Watch it [here](#)

More theatre listings, opera and ballet and news of the BBC's Culture in Quarantine Festival in next week's issue.

Limerick Challenge

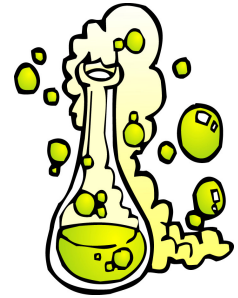
I was challenged to write a limerick with the first line "the trouble with self-isolation" Here is my woolly response. Now I challenge you!

The trouble with self-isolation
is the time that I have for creation.
I spend my time sitting
and doing my knitting,
in Fair Isle and lace hibernation.

Send in your limericks and we will publish as many as we can in future issues.

Get Experimental with the Royal Institution and The Science Museum

From a recipe for (apparently) delicious but disgusting fake poo to soap powered boats and homemade lava lamps. A series of short films aimed at children, but bound to rouse the curiosity of the slightly bored, housebound child in all of us!



[ExpeRlmental](#)

Meanwhile, over at The Science Museum they are designing their own planes and wondering what happens to marshmallows in space ..

[The Science Museum at home](#)

Quiz Night



A pandemic does not keep the quizzers of Brancepeth down and there are several quizzes in various formats currently available and in the offing.

A taster GCSE Quiz - are you as bright as your children?

Brain of Brancepeth - how well do you know your village history?

Both on the [Community Association Website](#)

Still to come

an interactive on-line quiz

a quiz for the U18s with prizes

Book Club

Val Gibbons is contacting book club members to see if people would like the next meeting via Zoom on the scheduled date (this Friday, 3 April).

If anyone else is interested, the current book is 'Emma' by Jane Austen. Please contact Val on 378 4200 if you would like the Zoom meeting ID.

