

Special Edition

## South Leigh Lockdown Special



This is a special edition of South Leigh News so that we can reflect upon the challenges faced during the Corona Virus Pandemic as a village and be optimistic going forward. Challenges that have seen a community alongside the nation pull together. During this crisis we are also afforded the opportunity to reflect as it is 75 years since VE Day —challenges that saw a nation and Europe unite. Stay safe and well.

### Message From The Parish Chair

These are extraordinary times and it is with great gratitude to Lysette for producing this extra newsletter showing what a wonderful and caring community we are. Everyone in the country is rallying round and none more so than the residents of our parish. I'm incredibly proud to live here and be part of the community.

There are many people in our parish who are working tirelessly within our hospitals and care homes, enabling children to continue to be educated, ensuring food is on our shelves, and keeping our services running while the rest of us do as we've been told and stay at home – all to beat this horrible virus. Our hearts go out to those people who have been less fortunate and to their families, and our thanks go to those who are helping us in any way here and across the country.

This 'Living in Lockdown' Special Edition to our amazing Southleigh News, produced by John Ashwell, is just another example of what makes our community very special. In it you will read some fabulous stories about what is making our village more than tick!

As Chair of the Parish Council, I have never been more proud of who we are as a community, nor what we do as a community, than now. Nor have I felt more humbled, nor more blessed, to have our friends and colleagues in the NHS and in every other supporting service, and in our military, ensuring that our lives are possible and safe.

I want to thank especially, those from our very own South Leigh community, and I know that I can say to them on behalf of every resident,

THANK YOU, *Nicky Brooks*



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## PARISH NEWS



### WONDERFUL NEWS

David Pimm has some fabulous news. David and Tessa's son, Oskar, was born, 05/05/20. Mother and baby are well and home.

Not only that but we have several new grandchildren that have brought smiles to their grandparents during lockdown that are in the village. (Virtually meeting them currently)

### CONGRATULATIONS

#### WINNERS CLUB 100

The draw went ahead in April and the winners were Terry Ellis and Anne Cherry

Parish Council Meeting via Zoom  
12<sup>th</sup> May 7.30 – Public Welcome to Join in a listening only role (further details to follow). Please notify me before the meeting if you wish to raise any specific items and we can allocate you a speaking slot.

Some of you will be aware that this meeting is usually our AGM. The AGM serves as a public meeting whereby residents can raise any questions they wish relevant to the parish and how the council is run. It is also the format where annual reports are giving by the parish council as well as their sub committees and where year end accounts are signed off. Because of the importance of public participation the powers that be have said that no AGMs should take place until public meetings are allowed again. Your parish

council will publish the year end reports and accounts after the meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Please do ask any questions you would like at that time.

Since lockdown the whole parish has done a wonderful job of pulling together to help those in need and to support one another. If anyone is struggling in any way please let a member of the PC know – there are loads of people throughout the village who have offered to help whether it be with a phone call, shopping or a trip to the pharmacy or anything else really. Don't hold back please get in touch – people really want to help. These are difficult times. PC members' phone numbers are on the website or call me on 01993 701137 or email [nicky@oxcomm.co.uk](mailto:nicky@oxcomm.co.uk).

(Nicky Brooks Top Left)

## Martin Collett (left)

### Some things are the same or are they?

A visitor to the village in the winter of 2000 ( I take a random year) would have seen Martin digging out ditches or sorting out a flood near the pub. In the winter of 2018 and 2019 he was doing the same but by then he was also involved in the Summer Fayre organising stalls, mowing the field, directing traffic and facilitating (with others) the whole joyful communal experience.

We mark him out currently because the whole horrid Covid experience has put into context social responsibility, social commitment and help for the community against grasping selfishness. A person with relatively little giving a lot as opposed to those taking and wanting more.

His social commitment goes beyond clearing areas of nettles and brambles and clearing ditches - he has constructed a face mask for a person in the front line, retrieved a wandering dog and brought her home, offered to get people bread, milk, a newspaper.

When snow and icy conditions are forecast, he puts grit on the roads, the hill in Church End, on corners, and at junctions.

When the A40 was closed last year, he stood for a long time by the slip road and diverted heavy goods vehicles away from the village.

His birthday parties are elaborate expressions of his desire to be a part of the community and the guests attend because that is what he is.

So in the context of this nightmare look around you and ask who in the village you would rather have as part of the community?

So are things the same or do we now see things in a different way? And in marking his contribution let's celebrate all those in South Leigh who contribute their time, money, expertise and energy to the community with a view only to making it "Greater South Leigh."

By Dick Pears

## TURNING POINTS

As we assembled this newsletter, the Prime Minister, on his second day back at the office after hospitalisation, announced that we might be at a 'turning point' in the crisis that has changed our lives more than most things in living memory – COVID-19 and The Lockdown.

This month we shall be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, but a possible 'turning point' in that war was four and a half years earlier, the Battle of Britain, in which the allies lost some 80 percent of all our aircraft and 1,542 lives. In that World War and the one before, together, South Leigh lost 21 residents.

The words of the then Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, have a poignant relevance today. He said, "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few".

As we mourn those we have lost in all wars, and we celebrate the selflessness of our NHS staff, key workers everywhere, and the military who face the peril head on today, there is one distinct difference with the war we are fighting today – it is universal.



*R4118 flew 49 sorties when on 605 Squadron during the Battle of Britain*  
Hurricane photo above: Wikipedia Arpingstone / Public domain

But conflict brings out the extraordinary in people and brings them together in extraordinary ways. We are seeing that every day here in South Leigh, despite the eerie calm that pervades.

The Queen last month was moved to speak on this subject. She said, "... and I want to reassure you that if we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it". Sage words indeed. She has been there and done it all.

We feel sure that the Queen would be chuffed to read this special edition of South Leigh News, Living in Lockdown, because it tells the numerous stories of life in our community of just 350 people, during this war. It tells of the ingenuity and creativity that have blossomed and the camaraderie that we see every day as we clap those who keep us safe, watch in awe at our children and their teachers who are 'bashing on' with schooling from home, see railings painted, swap libraries set up, trees and wild flowers planted, streams cleared out, rainbows dazzling our phone box and tarmac, musical renditions, digital Parish and Parochial Church Council meetings – who ever thought we'd see that! You name it, it's happening.



The Queen reminded us that it is exactly this spirit that will see us through and quoted Vera Lynn's World War II song that reminds us that when it's all over, "We'll meet again". MS



## LIFE OF A KEY WORKER UNDER COVID 19



Firstly, let me explain what my job normally entails. I am a Nurse Trainer (one of three covering the whole of Oxfordshire) and I teach carers to do what are classed as 'health care tasks', that years ago would have been done by nurses.

The training I do is to allow patients to be discharged from hospital to free up beds for other patients whose need is greater and/or to enable patients to stay at home instead of needing to go into care. Examples of the tasks I train carers for are, putting on compression stockings, giving feed and/or medications through a gastronomy peg (a tube into the stomach) and the care of a tracheostomy tube (a tube into a person's windpipe to allow air into the lungs). I also occasionally upskill other nurses on new equipment or unfamiliar processes. With the advent of COVID-19, our role was deemed as too important to be called to the front line straight away, so recently my job is increasingly to upskill other nurses, therapists and students, who have been redeployed to work with District Nurses or as carers in the community. However, that does not mean I cannot be called up at anytime

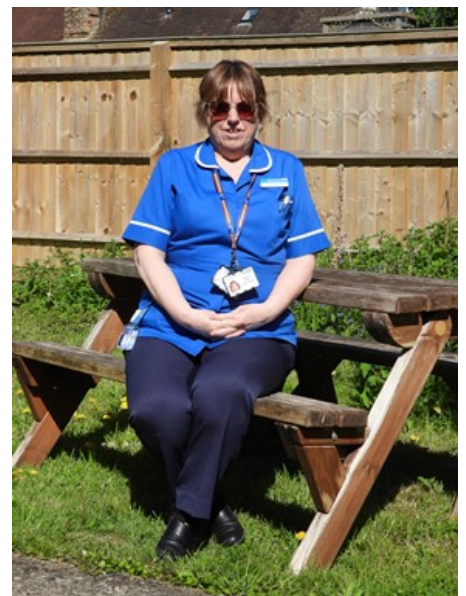
Generally, training sessions are performed face-to-face at care agencies' premises and/or patients' homes, with the number of carers being trained varying from just a few to a dozen or even a dozen and a half at one time. COVID-19 has changed that drastically! Training in patients' homes has now almost stopped completely, only being considered as a last resort and only in an emergency and most would involve high levels of PPE. PPE is available, but unnecessary use of it is to be avoided, we are constantly thinking of ways to do training remotely if at all possible.

Having said that, I am still able to do training at care agencies' premises but only with strict observance of social distancing and to only a few carers at a time; so, what would have taken only a couple of hours BC

(before COVID) can now take all day. As well as increasing demands on my time, this needs a greater level of concentration as, any pause in the training to answer questions or explain points in greater detail, can make it difficult to remember where I had got to, especially if it is the third or even fourth session of the day! As a professional I have to give an air of assurance to the carers I am training, not just in the task I am training them for but also counselling the very real fears they have, that they may pass the virus on to their patient or take it home with them to their families.

I am classed as being at higher risk because I have diabetes, and I have been told to work from home if at all possible, so I have had the daunting task of learning how to do training over the Internet! Easy for some I am sure, but a whole new ball-game for me, especially with not having super-fast broadband, as I'm sure many in the village are only too familiar with! Can you imagine trying to demonstrate an unfamiliar (to the carers) piece of equipment or procedure, in front of a tiny camera on a laptop with a slow connection to 20 or so people? Not easy! Juggling is now becoming a new skill.

(Caroline Auger—Below)



## LIFE OF A KEY WORKER UNDER COVID 19

There are still occasions when I have to go into the office, but that is a whole new regime now. My office is a large open plan space with a mixture of nurses in uniform and admin staff in normal everyday clothes – but not now, everybody now wears a uniform. Why? Because uniforms can be washed at 60 degrees whereas some ordinary clothes would be ruined if washed at that temperature. Why 60 degrees? Infection control! Who would have thought you would need infection control just going to the office?

Every day for me is different, and each day is an emotional rollercoaster.

I wake up in the morning thankful that I and my husband have no symptoms. Then I feel the guilt, the guilt that I can work safely at home while friends and colleagues are facing the very real danger of working on the front line against this terrible virus. Then comes the fear, the fear that I will discover that another friend or colleague has not made it in the fight against the virus. Then comes the pain, the pain when the fears are realised, a patient has died or a friend of colleague is not well and is forced to self-isolate. Then comes the anger, the anger at those not observing the social distancing, visiting friends or family they don't live with or having them come to visit, putting everybody's life at risk, seemingly with the totally selfish attitude of "I haven't got it, and I know they haven't got it, so what's the risk?" The anger at missing out on a landmark birthday with no friends or family around to celebrate with, when others seem to be enjoying what is denied to me. Then comes the anxiety, the anxiety that, although there is PPE available, will I be able to get this if I am called to go into the greater danger of the front line. And probably the deepest emotion is the distress that I can't comfort and reassure my 11-year-old grandson that his mother

(who works in a special-needs school) and grandmother aren't going to die, because we are still working.

Then comes the foreboding, that upon having to carry out a new aspect of my job, the job of certifying death, certifying the terrible end for someone's husband, wife, mother, father, brother, sister or loved one, the dreadful foreboding of having to do this from behind an apron, gloves and face mask....

By Caroline Auger



Chapel Road Saying Thank You



Station Road Supports Key Workers



**THANK YOU TO  
ALL THE  
KEYWORKERS**





## VE DAY IN A NUTSHELL



A Scarecrow competition in South Leigh will mark VE Day this year. But even they will be distance because of the lockdown and so will be posted on garden fences where they can be judged.

Lockdowns were a regular occurrence during the Second World War – in fact, it was lockdown every time the Luftwaffe came to bomb Britain and the air raid sirens went off. London alone suffered 71 raids.

But silence fell and on 8th May 1945 the Allies celebrated the defeat of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler's Reich, formally recognising the end of the 1939-1945 Second World War in Europe. This became known as VE (Victory in Europe) Day.



Winston Churchill's famous victory salute for Whitehall

The Allies had begun to overrun Germany from the west during April as Russian forces advanced from the east. On 25th April 1945, Allied and Soviet forces met at the Elbe River and the German Army was all but destroyed.

Five days later, Hitler killed his dog, his new wife Eva and then committed suicide in his Berlin bunker. At 2:41 a.m. on 7th May, General Alfred Jodl signed the unconditional surrender of German forces, which was to take effect from 8th May 1945 at 11:01 p.m.

Churchill Photo Above © IWM (H 41849) Horton W. G. (Major) (Photographer)  
War Office official photographer (Undefined) We acknowledge and thank the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum for allowing use of this image.

After six years and millions of lives lost, the Nazi scourge was crushed and the war in Europe was finally over.

The understated official announcement from Britain's Ministry of Information said simply, "In accordance with arrangements between the three great powers, tomorrow, Tuesday (May 8), will be treated as Victory in Europe Day and will be regarded as a holiday."

But the war with Japan continued. On 6th and 9th August 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, respectively.

On 9th August the Soviet Union declared war on Japan and on 10th August the Japanese government communicated its intention to surrender.

Victory Japan Day, or VJ Day, was celebrated on 15th August 1945 and it marked the end of World War Two.



Celebrations in London

© IWM (HU 41808)

London News Agency Photographer (Photographer)

We acknowledge the Trustees of the Imperial War Museum for allowing use of this image.

source (e.g. <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/2143>)





# SOUTH LEIGH VE DAY SCARECROWS

(BACK PAGE AS WELL)

So, what is the connection between Scarecrows and VE Day? (All scarecrows photos will be on the website as some weren't ready when we published)

The only credible explanation we can find is that we were losing so many aircraft during night bombing raids over Germany that Bomber Command deliberately set out to deceive its own airmen with cynical propaganda. They were told that the huge explosions they were seeing during the night

raids and which looked like allied aircraft exploding under enemy fire, were fake enemy "scarecrow bombs" that created false explosions in order to demoralise them.

This was untrue and the airmen were, in fact, seeing exploding allied aircraft.

The losses were so high and so frequent that this cynical deception was used to avoid admitting the huge losses of other Squadrons on the same Mission.

<https://masterbombercraig.wordpress.com/bombing-operations/flak/scarecrow-shell/>





# THERE IS NO NEW THING UNDER THE SUN

(Ecclesiastes 1:10)

Epidemics and lockdowns are not my speciality, but some distanced time on the web showed very quickly that neither is new. The earliest recorded epidemic is 412 BC.

It was the Greek physician, Hippocrates of Kos, the 'Father of Medicine', who recorded the contagion, probably influenza. He lived from 460 to 370 BC.

It's a jump in time, but Pope Clement VI (1291-1352) had already worked out the importance of isolation. He incarcerated himself against the Black Death by sitting alone for weeks between two enormous fires. He survived... but half his cardinals didn't.

The Black Death, Plague or Pestilence, that ravaged populations from 1342 to 1353, was catastrophic and there were self isolation and lockdowns galore. In 1394, Parliament was postponed, as it was in April 2020 (nothing new!), and the city of London was also locked down.



The Plague, London, 1625.

Note: Keepe out.

Even the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) took a timeout, and the Plague halved the population in England from 5 million to 2.5 million. It is recorded that South Leigh was hit by 'serious mortalities' during the Black Death and in 1377 only 91 persons over 14, some probably still living outside South Leigh, were assessed for the poll tax.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Century distancing

While science then did not know the cause of the infection, people had definitely cottoned on to the effectiveness of 'distancing'. The very word 'quarantine' comes from isolation practices in Italy in 1348. Incoming vessels to the port of Venice were held at anchor outside for 40 days – thus 'quarantine'.

In London, Henry VIII innately understood isolation. When London was hit, he scooted off with his court and made it illegal for anyone to follow... and he survived. His self-isolation measures of 1517 also helped him escape the dreaded Sweating Sickness. He was found self-isolating in secrecy in Southampton!

8 When the plague hit again, London inhabitants of infected households were ordered to stay at home for a month and those who didn't were imprisoned.

## Creativity blossoms

But there is a silver lining. Today, we are seeing in our village and in this newsletter the creativity that has blossomed during the lockdown. Well, it seems that this is not new either!

William Shakespeare's most prolific period coincided exactly with his isolation during the closures of theatres in London as a result of the plague. He wrote six plays in the 1590s during the close downs and wrote King Lear in 1606 during another wave. And Isaac Newton's most prolific early writings on the understanding of gravity were also by-products of the 1665-67 plague lockdown. This time, troops were stationed outside infected London homes.

Lessons were being learned and, in 1897, British authorities in India enforced draconian measures against a plague that effectively reduced deaths.

In 1918, influenza killed 50 million people worldwide, (4<sup>th</sup> May 2020 global Corona deaths, 250,000) and in Europe artist Edvard Munch locked himself away when he was infected in 1919 and painted the gaunt 'Self Portrait with Spanish Flu'. And there was the 1997 Avian flu, then Sars in 2002 from which the Chinese government learned the lockdown lessons that were put into effect for COVID-19, first with the total closure of Wuhan, this year.

Most recently, other lockdowns have been in response to acts of terror – 9/11 in 2001 New York, 2013 Boston, and Belgian cities and Paris in 2015. These resulted in the apprehension of terrorists and a steadying of confidence in the communities.

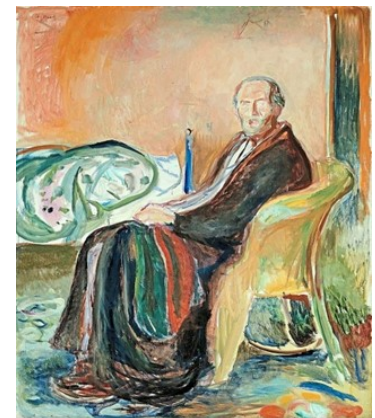
While there have been different levels of medical understand about the causes of diseases and their contagion at different times in history, one thing is clear from this 2020 COVID-19 lockdown homework exercise: There is nothing new under the sun. And for more than eight hundred years, that we know of, lockdowns have saved lives.

Keep well, MS

Edvard Munch in self isolation

Woodblock (Above Left)  
Science Photo Library (SPL)

Edvard Munch: (Right)  
Wikipedia/ Edvard Munch / Public domain National Gallery of Norway







## SOUTH LEIGH FOREST RESTORATION GROUP

### Trees still grow in Lockdowns

by David Brooks and Martin Spurrier

It may be a coincidence, but the South Leigh Forest Restoration group has made amazing progress during The Lockdown.

On the last days of April and the first days of May, out of the blue, we were offered three seven-metre elms of the disease-resistant variety. These trees cost a fortune, each.

The Eynsham Park Estate had already agreed in principle for us to plant trees in three locations pending its approval of the legalities and of detailed plans from us. But we were still in the process of sorting these out.

Then, we received the phone call from Mike Kirk saying he had these three amazing tall elms and wanted to donate them to us. Mike lives in Chapel Road and is the proprietor of Hadingham Kirk Gardens, professional landscape gardeners. Mike is also our adviser.

But the catch was that we had to be able to plant them the next day.

We immediately got an e-mail off to Savills, the Eynsham Park Estate's agents with whom we deal, explaining the situation, but it was 6 pm and Savills are working from home.

### Planting goes ahead

We decided, therefore to accept the trees with gratitude but some trepidation, and to plant them in Station Road in the hope that the Estate would say 'yes' after the event.

In the morning, however, on 30<sup>th</sup> April, we were delighted to receive the OK from Savills. Much relief and thanks for their help under Lockdown, home-working conditions!

That day, was Captain (now Colonel) Tom Moore's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, so we decided that the least we could do was to dedicate the planting to him, as well as to the NHS and to all the people who keep things running and who keep us all safe and well, and whom he was supporting.

We dug in the afternoon and planted at 5 pm and got a note off to the village website and to Facebook, as well as the media and they all kindly carried our story on-line the next day. We also sent it to this amazing centenarian hero, Colonel Tom, via the Post Office's free delivery service.

Phew! A close call much helped by Mike and Savills. Thank you!

### All three trees now in

In the meantime, Mike has given us the two other trees and these are now planted together with the first in Station Road. They are to the left of Just Cartridges' entrance in the group of smaller trees where we have cut the grass back a bit and that is now forming a charming little forest.

DB







## SOUTH LEIGH FOREST RESTORATION GROUP



### Other progress during The Lockdown:

Mr. and Mrs. David Bury have consented to our planting in Stanton Harcourt Road, pending the legalities that are now in hand. We are thrilled to have them supporting us. Thank you.

In preparation for planting as we progress, we have made our own 500-litre water bowser for my 1952 Land Rover. That is up and running and we are ready to go watering with 500 litres whenever it is needed.

We also bought from private funds a petrol auger as we will be digging lots of holes in the next few years. This has already proved to be invaluable after some initial rooky, and very painful, errors!

### We are happy to help

If anyone is planting trees at home and needs help with our kit, please just let us know, we'll help if we can. All trees are good trees!

Other things:

- We have collected a number of baby chestnut trees that were

kindly left in the Lockdown bus shelter swap shop. We are holding these with our thirty plus oaklets that we have grown from acorns. If anyone has a loving home for a baby oak or chestnut tree, please ask us.

- Other residents have been planting trees on their land. These include trees that we know of at The Manor House, Shuttles Cottage and Acre Cottage.
- We have started tidying up the footpath through the planted wood behind the Old Crossing. The tree shelters were old, broken, unsightly and performing no useful purpose. They had done an amazing job protecting the tree growth over what must have been 15 to 20 years. (see left)
- And at the village green at Church End, watch out for a new memorial Rowan that will arrive some time soon.

That's it for now. Keep planting and, if you need help, please just ask.

[martinspurrier@hotmail.com](mailto:martinspurrier@hotmail.com)



## WILDFLOWERS OF LOCKDOWN







## FORGET-ME-NOTS: THE WILD FLOWER OF LOCKDOWN

There is something evocative about the names of the ordinary little wild flowers that set up home anywhere they can. And 'Forget-me-Nots' must surely be the flower of the Lockdown as we remember all those who are keeping us safe.

The time and space of the Lockdown combined with his enthusiasm for nature and wildflowers, in particular, has enabled Graham Soame to encourage many folk in South Leigh to plant while the spring, and the Lockdown, are here.

In fact, the Lockdown has already spurred on newly created wild flower havens in the Station Road verges opposite Windrush Cottage and further east opposite Nos 3 and 4 Lymbrook Cottages. And in Chapel Road the buzzing bees in the front garden at Acre Cottage are a sight and sound to be seen and heard, as long as you maintain your social distance! There are others further along at Little Giddings and Shuttles Cottage, and towards Stanton Harcourt at Blue Barn House and up at Manor Farm at Church End.

Wild flowers have some magical names. These include Enchanter's nightshade, Kingcups and Water avens, Pasque flower, Primrose, Stinking iris, Stinking hellebore, Snake's head fritillary, Golden shield fern, Cheddar pink, Lilly of the valley, and Wood anemone.

Saint Theresa is the patron saint of flower growers and it seems that Graham has the inside track with this special lady as he has wild flowers in profusion at Acre Cottage.

But just wait a while because at Field House (below right), on the left as you head out of the village towards Barnard Gate or walk up Bond's Lane, their two-acre field they overlook, between the house and the road, has just been seeded entirely with wild flowers to bloom, hopefully later this year.

And very soon the fruits of Graham's labours last year will start popping up along Chapel Road towards Margery Cross. Did you see his trial plantings last summer? Well, just wait to see this year's.

The launch of Graham's Nature Wildlife initiative coincided with the start of the Lockdown and while we have not been able to meet, he is already planning a get together when we hear the 'all clear' siren so that we can co-ordinate our planting and seeding efforts and tie in with the South Leigh Forest Restoration group.

There is something missing among the wild flower names, though. A name with special hope and joy.

This whole Newsletter is bursting with energy and positive vibes at a time of hardship for so many. So, as we look forward to better times, the good news for everyone is that there is a deciduous shrub with pretty bright, tiny flowers that is called Fuchsia hemsleyana. Its common name is 'Silver lining'. MS

'Silver lining' Below



## KIDS VE DAY QUIZ

- 1) *On what day was VE Day?*
- 2) *What does VE stand for?*
- 3) *When did World War II begin?*
- 4) *Who was the Prime Minister when World War II ended?*
- 5) *What three colours are associated with VE Day?*
- 6) *What letter was projected on St Paul's Cathedral on VE Day?*
- 7) *Who appeared on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on VE Day?*
- 8) *Time differences mean that VE Day is celebrated on what day in New Zealand?*
- 9) *When did the war against Japan end?*
- 10) *2020 marks the anniversary of VE Day—what anniversary is it?*

*Answers on the back page.*

## SOUTH LEIGH KIDS' GROUP

I would love to set up an element of the South Leigh Kids' Group during the COVID- 19 situation in a way that would leave a lasting memorial of the good things about lockdown.

A lot of the village children have been getting out on foot and on bikes to explore the countryside for their one exercise a day and may have seen things that make them happy such as different birds, plants or sunrises/sunsets. On my walks I have seen yellow hammers, egrets, buzzards, Red Kites, hare, deer, bluebells, hawthorn...we live in such a beautiful village.

So I am asking every child in the village who would like to participate to paint or draw something on an A5 size watercolour paper to be included in a village mural once this crisis is over. I imagine it may look something like the Village Map displayed in the Village Hall.

I have art materials from the days when I used to run children's art classes so could provide a pack of essentials for those who don't have any.

I would also love to run art tutorials over Zoom for those who don't know how to begin or literally just for the fun of it! We



could come out of this with a beautiful art piece to inspire villagers for years to come.

So, the idea of A5 (half an A4) is to be able to accommodate everyone's piece of art as there are a lot of children. This would preferably be on watercolour paper for best results.

Anybody who is interested can e mail me on [jackiejpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jackiejpc@yahoo.co.uk) or ring me on 01993 778421 and we can sort the logistics out by e mail.

I'm really excited by this project as I know from previous times when we have done this that our village children are amazing artists. Some of you may remember the auction of children's art that we put on years ago when we had the pleasure of hosting Cliff Wright (illustrator of the original Harry Potter books) who stayed for the weekend and went on to do a masterclass of nature painting for the

children. He was genuinely impressed by the children's artwork.

I am looking forward to getting this project up and running, please e mail or ring me!

Best wishes,

Jackie Johnson





## SOUTH LEIGH SWAP SHOP IS JUST THE TICKET



There never was a regular bus service through South Leigh, or not that anyone can recall. The Station Road bus shelter was probably built in the 50s for the school bus run.

But, wherever the children were going in life, our bus shelter itself must have bought a 'return' ticket

because it is now back in service. On this run, the shelter is still supporting the village but with a new role during the lockdown, thanks to an idea from Barbara Austin. (Above)

Barbara's mother is 94 and totally self sufficient, but the lockdown made getting to the library and shops impossible for her.

"This gave me the idea that others must be in the same predicament and wouldn't it be terrific to have a convenient place where anyone in the community could share books and jigsaw puzzles, or anything else", Barbara explained.

Several locations were considered and then Nicky Brooks suggested the disused bus shelter in Station Road. The Scrape and Paint team had already identified it for face lift, soon, so it was the perfect solution and the South Leigh Swap Shop was back on the road and on its way.

Barely before it had set off, though, Dick Pears had amusingly named our tiny terminal building 'The Andrew Carnegie Memorial Library'. Andrew Carnegie (1835 –1919) was a Scottish-American self-made steel tycoon and one of the wealthiest businessmen of 19th century. He funded and built 2,509 libraries in the US, UK and 15 or more other countries. Some 800 still exist, of which 62 are in the UK.

Interestingly, on 28th November 1924, The Oxford Times reported that, "Through the beneficence of the late Mr Carnegie, the Oxfordshire County Council were enabled to establish a free library in Eynsham some three months ago."

As Carnegie came from a humble Scottish background and would most definitely have used the bus, we are sure that he would have approved of our bus shelter library and swap shop!

As with all journeys, new things crop up at each stop. After books and jigsaws came toys, and then plants and saplings, and who knows where we shall go next? Check it out soon and make sure that you don't miss the bus!

The South Leigh Swap Shop is another creative product of the lockdown and it was all thanks to her mum that Barbara got the idea. "I am thrilled to see that something so simple can provide such a useful service. Of course, everything to do with it is dedicated to the NHS and everyone who is keeping us safe", Barbara stressed.

The South Leigh Swap Shop/Andrew Carnegie Memorial Library will continue to remain in service until after the lockdown when any items left over will go to a charity shop. And some time soon, the Scrape and Paint team will take a busman's holiday and give the shelter a lick of paint. Then it's 'Hold tight', and we are off to the next stop.



Bus shelter above will be getting a makeover.

## *SEASONAL SOUTH LEIGH RECIPES*





## NEWSLETTER

Any opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor.

This is a special one off addition.

Please keep up to date by looking at the Facebook page or the website [www.southleigh.info](http://www.southleigh.info)

If you are not currently on the residents circulation list please contact Nicky Brooks on [nicky@oxcomm.co.uk](mailto:nicky@oxcomm.co.uk) to receive important updates.

## THE FLAG BELOW WAS ON A WARTIME DESTROYER

Today it is the backdrop to a children's train set in South Leigh



## QUIZ ANSWERS

### VE DAY

- 1) 8th May
- 2) Victory in Europe
- 3) September 1939
- 4) Winston Churchill
- 5) Red, White & Blue
- 6) V
- 7) King George VI
- 8) 9th May
- 9) August 1945
- 10) 75th

