

Nursling & Rownhams

# Village News

*Happy Easter!*



*Detail from stained glass in St John's Church Rownhams, by David Smith*

**Week 1**

**3 April 2020**

A Newsletter for all in the Parish of Nursling and Rownhams

## **Editorial**

Welcome to week 1 of our first solely digital Coronavirus edition!

Do print it out for those who would not otherwise have access to it.

Thank you so much to all those who have contributed items for this week's edition. Your efforts are very much appreciated by us and we hope you, our readers, enjoy them and are inspired to send us your own.

The more interesting you make the digital edition the more ideas we may be able to carry over to the print edition when it resumes.

Please send us:

- Artworks you have created
- Book reviews and recommendations
- Children's art and stories
- Creative prose
- Film reviews and recommendations
- Gaming reviews and recommendations
- Home school topics and resources
- Jokes
- Memories from times past
- Music reviews and recommendations
- Photos - historical, local, or quirky
- Poems
- What do you think of it so far?

The list could go on so don't feel constrained, other than by good taste!

**Send to [editors.villagenews@gmail.com](mailto:editors.villagenews@gmail.com)**

We would love to be able to publish another edition next week, but your to do so the Village News needs YOU!

*The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the editors.*

## **Stop All**

*by Jon Sims (with apologies to WH Auden)*

Stop all the clocks, rely on the phone  
Prevent the bug biting by staying at home  
Silence the news with noise cancelling bud  
Bring out the jigsaws and stock up on food

No aeroplanes circling way on high  
Their chalk mark scars across the sky  
No sun scorching white necks of staycationers  
The government's locked up the outraged pensioners

No heading North, South, East nor West  
No working week, all Sunday rest  
From noon to midnight just talk, little song  
I thought retirement freedom; I was wrong

The cars are not wanted now, nor the ship  
Put away the packing, cancel the trip  
Pour away the ocean, forget the cruise  
Turn on the telly and break out the booze

### **Defibrillators**

can be found outside

#### **The Village Hall in Nursling Street and the Community Centre in Horns Drove**

Someone not breathing or breathing erratically? Call 999. Do CPR. Ask someone else to go and get the defibrillator. 999 will give them the code to access the equipment. Follow the spoken instructions given by the defibrillator.

# St Boniface and St John's churches

The churches of St Boniface Nursling and St Johns Rownhams, would like to offer the hand of friendship for any in our community at this time.

If you would like someone from our churches to get in touch with you by phone or you know of anyone who needs support, is isolated, is perhaps unwell or just simply needs to hear a friendly voice to talk, to share or to pray then please get in touch. We would love to help in whatever way we can.

Based on government and National Church of England advice, Sunday services at both our churches have been suspended until further notice.

In addition, we will also be live streaming our services at 10:00 each Sunday morning. You can join us at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/347628745326643/>

Alternatively, go to our webpage to download the service at  
<https://twinspires.org.uk>

Please do get in touch with us by email on [office.twinspires@gmail.com](mailto:office.twinspires@gmail.com) or call us at the church office number on 023 8073 8293. Please leave a message and we will call you back.

May God bless you at this time.

*Rev'd Graeme Dixon*

## Nursling and Rownhams Helping Hands



Back on the 11th March, before the Coronavirus really took hold in the UK one of our residents, Sarah Sign, put a message on Facebook offering support to anyone in the village who might need it if they needed to self- isolate.

Many people praised her thoughtfulness and offered their support too, so Sarah set about gathering together an army of volunteers to help those in need. Everyone pulled together to deliver leaflets to every household, covering over 5000 residents within days.

Sarah has set up a system for allocating jobs and we are getting busier by the day, getting shopping, picking up prescriptions and just talking to those who are on their own. At the time of writing, before we reach the peak of the virus, the helping hands group have supported almost 50 families and have even been contacted by people living elsewhere in the country who are concerned about relatives in the village.

Sarah saw an early opportunity to set up something to provide support to all of our residents who might need it. It's a great example of community spirit throughout our village during an otherwise awful time.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES  
FOR OUR NEXT EDITION TO  
[editors.villagenews@gmail.com](mailto:editors.villagenews@gmail.com)**

## **My early home computing equipment**

Back the 1980s, long before The Apprentice appeared on our screen with those irritating go-getting know-it-alls with their totally inappropriate egos, it was still the early days of home computers. In those days Alan Sugar (no hifalutin Sir or Lord titles in those days for him) sold Amstrad computers and we owned a couple of them.

The first one was bought as a word processor and it was a steep learning curve with no internet available to search for help. One printer we used in the 1990s was a wide format printer which took sprocket-fed listing paper (more of this later).

The second computer I remember using at home was in use during the 1990s and was an Amstrad Mega PC 386SX. It was an IBM-compatible PC with a difference and the clue is in the name. It contained an entire Sega Megadrive on an ISA card. It was released in 1993, and the Playstation did not come out until a year or so later. We were at the leading edge of technology!

Powered by an Intel i386SX running at 25 MHz. It had 1 MB of RAM and a 40 MB Seagate hard drive, not bad for 1992! On the front of the box is a slider panel, that switched between the PC mode and the MegaDrive, sliding to the left covers the MegaDrive and exposes the 3.5" floppy drive.

When I ventured into the loft earlier this year to have a sort out, I found to my amazement that I was stepping back in time. Years ago, I had carefully packed up the printer into its box and put it in the loft. It was stored in its plastic wrapper and the polystyrene corner protectors in its original box.

It is a 1987 model and now 33 years later it was time to dispose of it. I don't use eBay, and it would be a shame to scrap it as it was still in very good condition. I decided to see if a museum would be interested so I contacted three to enquire, attaching some photos and offering to donate the item.

I received positive replies from all three, but one could not take it for several months. The other two said they would be delighted to receive it, especially as it came with its original box. I chose the

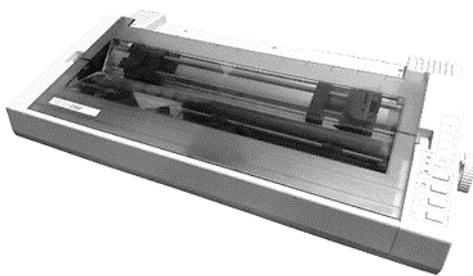
museum that was the more convenient for us to deliver to and, having arranged to take it there, took the opportunity to see their excellently curated collection.

The Centre for Computing History is much more than a museum. Based in Cambridge, it hosts hands-on exhibitions, educational workshops and a wide range of activities and events. Most importantly, it makes the history of computing relevant and fun for all ages! There are opportunities for youngsters to have hands-on experience of classic computer games and see just how much technology has developed over the last 40 years.

What have you discovered hidden away?

*David*

*Images credit: The Centre for Computing History:*



### A dictionary definition:

Covidiot (*noun*)

1. A person who stubbornly ignores "social distancing" protocol, thus helping to spread COVID-19 further:

*"Are you seriously going to visit grandma? Don't be such a covidiot!"*

2. A person who hoards groceries, needlessly, depriving others of essential supplies:

*"See that man over there with a trolley-load of toilet rolls: What a covidiot!"*

If you can make up a word and or a definition, do send it to us!

## NURSLING AND ROWNHAMS HISTORY GROUP



Our March meeting was well attended with several visitors. Our speaker, Alan Matlock, gave a very interesting illustrated talk. He explained how during WW2 the iconic Spitfire aeroplane was being built in 1940 at the Supermarine Works in Woolston, but the factory was destroyed in two daylight raids in the September with the loss of many lives. Lord Beaverbrook, the Minister for Aircraft Production, insisted the work should continue in any location where aircraft could be built.

In a few weeks production began again in requisitioned buildings in Southampton, Salisbury, Trowbridge and Reading. Locally these included Hendy's Garage, Seward's Garage, Lowther's Garage, Sunlight Laundry, Hants and Dorset Bus Depot, Toogoods Seed Warehouse and possibly Webber's Garage, Nursling. There are plans to erect blue plaques at these dispersal sites to commemorate their importance during WW2.

Our summer visits will not now take place due to the current situation but our meetings should start again in September and are held in the Nursling and Rownhams Village Hall, Nursling Street, on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30 pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Further information is available on our website:

[www.nandrhistorygroup.wix.com/nurslingandrownhams](http://www.nandrhistorygroup.wix.com/nurslingandrownhams)

*Julie Gundry*

**CORONA VIRUS**

**HELP NEEDED?**

**HELP OFFERED**

**CALL/TEXT SARAH ON 07887 420656**

## RECIPE FOR THE WEEK

In the current circumstances we are all looking for simple, tasty meals, and this ticks all those boxes. This is the best hash recipe I have come across – please let me know what you think. If you want a little bit of extra edge, add a tsp of cayenne at \*.

### CORNED BEEF HASH

Tin baked beans

Tin corned beef

2 tbsp tomato puree (or sauce)

2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce

Potatoes, cooked and mashed

1 leek, sliced and steamed

100 gr grated cheese

#### *Method:*

Put baked beans in oven proof dish

Cube corned beef and stir in puree and Worcestershire sauce, then put on top of beans \*

Stir cooked leek into mashed potato and put on top of beef

Sprinkle cheese on top

Bake 180C for 30 minutes.

Enjoy!

*Robert*

## POETIC PONDERINGS

I can't wait to see my children running with their friends,  
Careless, laughing, hugging.  
I don't want to disprove of children in skate parks,  
'Where are their parents?' I hear you say.

My children bear hunt and rainbow spot on their daily  
walks,  
My eyes fill with tears walking through Hazeldown Road,  
Their words are just what I need.  
The local volunteers are plenty,  
Who said there's more bad than good?

I cry when we clap our NHS,  
That feeling of connection is what we all miss.  
The co-op staff are also our heroes,  
Why are 'Be kind' signs needed?

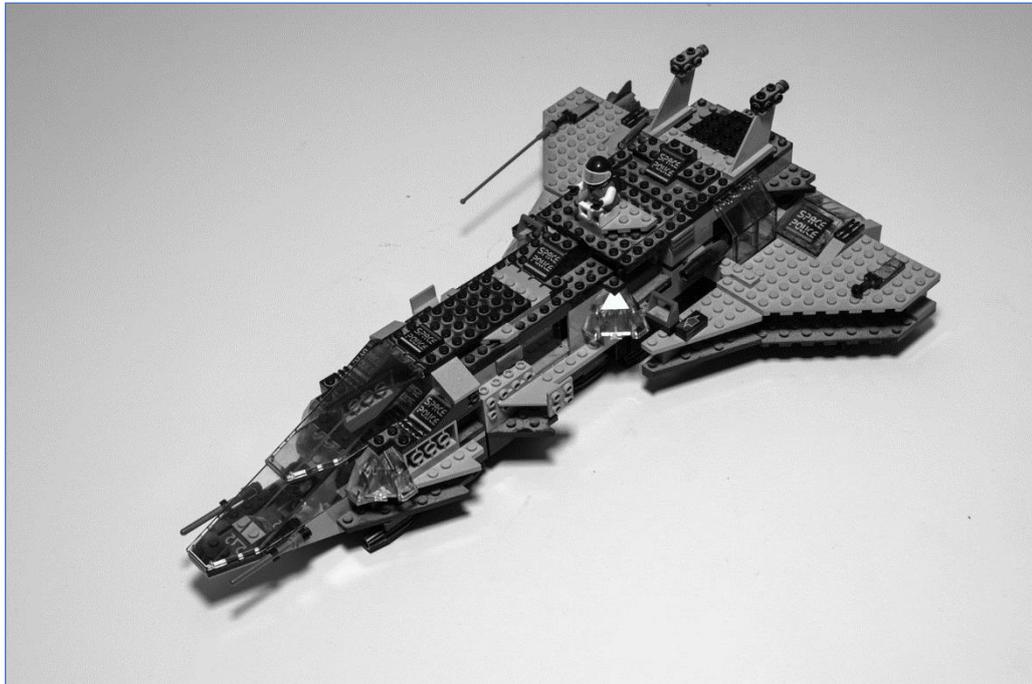
I wonder how this will change us?  
Maybe more gratitude; more presence; more  
contentment?  
Will we still be there for our neighbours?  
Oh, and where can I find some eggs?

*Vicky*

## I'm bored...what can I do now...?

How have you been spending the time? Perhaps you have been reading War and Peace, or maybe doing crossword puzzles.

Or maybe...



What have you been up to?

What have your children done?

Do let us know! We would love to hear from you or them.

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## **Litter Picking in April**

There will be no organised litter pick in April. That is a great shame as Anna Hammond, the Co-op Member Pioneer for Romsey and North Baddesley was going to join us with her volunteers. Anna came to the March pick and, in spite of a slight mishap, she was keen for there to be a joint pick, somewhere in the Nursling Street shops area. We hope to see them when we start organised picking again.

Instead of our meeting, if you are going out to get some exercise and spot some litter how about picking it up and disposing of it in the correct place (without putting yourself at any risk of course). If you see a fly tip then please report that direct to TVBC who will deal with it in time. Another thing you can do whilst out exercising is make a mental note of any litter black spots and let us know so, when we can get back into action, we know where needs dealing with most. We can be contacted via the parish office.

*Marion and Mary*

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## **With apologies to Tommy Cooper**

Before the pandemic I was looking for a local group to join:

I signed up to the Origami Club, but after 2 weeks it folded.

I joined the Chinese Cookery Class. The first night they gave me a frozen fish to cook - I was between a wok and a hard plaice.

I tried the Magic Club, but someone stole all my tricks. I became completely disillusioned.



## 21<sup>st</sup> Romsey (Nursling & Rowhams) Scout Group



In those far off days B.C. (Before Covid) members of our Rifle Club participated in the annual Hampshire Scout shooting competition. All acquitted themselves well, but a special mention to two members of our Explorer unit: Jazmine who gained bronze in rifle and silver in pistol, putting her in top place for the combined event in her category, and Matthew – silver in rifle, gold in pistol and gold for combined event in his class. A terrific result, you'll agree. Nor should we forget Steve, one of the leaders and main driving force behind the club, with gold in pistol and silver in combined.

Also squeezing-in before face-to-face events were prevented, one of our Cub Packs had a climbing session at Golden Gecko and Wood Beavers had a go at sand art.



You will appreciate that our normal weekly sessions have had to stop, but Scouting at Home goes on! I'm very grateful to my leaders for their inventiveness and enthusiasm in providing parents with ideas for activities and badgework that can be done at home, and also for their skill in using social media and conferencing apps to provide virtual sessions over the internet. The younger members of the Group clearly enjoyed seeing their faces on-screen and being able to see and talk to their school friends. Once their exuberance

had died down it was possible to get onto things like quizzes and crafts, with tasks set for completion by the next meeting.

Unfortunately the Romsey District Scout and Guide celebration of St George's Day had to be cancelled, as were several short camps that our sections had planned for late spring and early summer. At this stage we are still wondering whether or not it will be possible to go ahead with the main



summer camps. However, we are very grateful to the Barker Mill Foundation, who have donated £1,800k towards the purchase of some 8-person tents, which we will make use of as soon as possible. These were needed partly to enable us to pension-off some existing ones and partly to increase the capacity, enabling both of our large Cub Packs to camp at the same time.

The timing of this donation was very welcome, coming as it does when other sources of income have taken a hit. However sound financial management over many years, led by successive Treasurers, means that our reserves are in pretty good order and we expect to come through this a bit bruised, but not knocked-out.

It has been great to see the community spirit that has been demonstrated locally – may this continue long after the pandemic has passed.

*Randell McKay*  
*Group Scout Leader*