

WEMBORTHY VILLAGE HALL & COMMUNITY NEWS: FEBRUARY 2021

I recently saw this quote 'In less than 5 weeks it'll be March. Daffodils, sunshine, warmer days, longer days, new beginnings. Keep going everyone, we can do this.' And the good news is that by the time you receive this newsletter, it will actually only be 4 weeks away! Snowdrops are already appearing and I have seen some camellia flowers bringing forth some colour, Spring is on its way ☺



The Village Hall AGM should be in February but has been postponed until later in the year, further details in due course. As the Village Hall continues to be closed and there is little news to report or events to advise of, the focus of this newsletter is to provide a range of information and support that may be of interest and we hope may be useful.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE: Mid Devon Health Care Primary Care Network has advised that all patients aged over 80 in the District have now been invited for their first COVID vaccination. The over 75s are now being invited for an appointment at the vaccination centre at Lords Meadow Leisure Centre in Crediton. Do not contact your GP practice for an appointment.

WEMBORTHY PARISH COUNCIL:

The village flag is currently at half-mast out of respect to **George Markou**, Parish Councillor, who recently passed away.

Pot Holes: should be reported at devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/ 'Not all potholes that are reported to us meet the criteria required to instigate repair. We will not ignore any reports, however, we do have to prioritise our funding on safety and we cannot afford to fix all of the problems that are reported to us. We will repair potholes that are deeper than 40mm, wider than 300mm and have a vertical edge'. If you are reporting an emergency that requires immediate attention, please call us on 0345 155 1004. An emergency on the highway is defined as something that is very likely to present an imminent threat to life or serious injury or serious damage to property.'

MID DEVON COUNCIL:

Census 2021 and Census Jobs: 'Households across Mid Devon will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021. It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets. Households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March. The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity. More information at: www.census.gov.uk. People are needed to fill a range of temporary roles to make Census 2021 a success. Whether you're saving up for something or you want to make a real difference to your community, there's a job for you. Full details about the recruitment process and how to apply at: <https://www.censusjobs.co.uk/>

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL:

Parents Childcare Survey 2021: 'Whether you use childcare or not, your voice counts. The answers you give in this short survey will help the early years and childcare team in Devon County Council to plan and make sure there is enough childcare for you to work or train. This data is being collected to assess the need for childcare and will be used with information from childcare providers to determine the sufficiency of childcare provision in Devon': smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ParentsChildcareSurvey2021/

COMMUNITY NEWS

WEMBORTHY CHURCH: 'Most of the local churches are closed but we are still planning to hold the first service of 2021 in Wembworthy on **Sunday 7th February** at 9.30am. Many factors could lead to these plans changing, such as the national response to the new more transmissible virus strain. We follow all the guidelines to keep the congregation and clergy safe, and we know how much the ability to meet as a congregation for worship is important to members of our community. Please check with one of the Churchwardens nearer the time of the service to be sure it is going ahead and book your place. Chris Rogers 0333 006 4252 and Rob Perry 01837 680125'.

EGGESFORD CHURCH: 'The January service at Eggesford was cancelled at short notice, because nearly all those who were originally going to come decided that they should "stay at home". There will be a service on **21st February** at 6.00pm'.

LITTLE RED HEN STUDIO AND POTTERY: 'The Little Red Hen is closed for the foreseeable future but that doesn't mean there is no crafting and pottery happening. We have packs for valentine cards and/or gift, just message me, and I am planning packs for the spring. Please watch out for further details. May even be a prize again!! Anyone in need of anything to keep your crafting going we are happy to oblige. Please just ask.' (01837 682688)

MOBILE LIBRARY: Libraries Unlimited suspended the mobile service in line with their building closures on 5th January until further notice. Existing loans have been extended to 29th March.

KERNOW FISHERIES: Darren will be in Wembworthy on Fridays 5th and 19th February, 10.15am at Little Meadow (near the Church) (07826 059777)

GENERAL INFORMATION

TURN2US: A national charity helping people when times are tough, providing information and financial support to help people get back on track turn2us.org.uk

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN FARMING WEBINAR: organised by the Trading Standards Farming Partnership 'Join us for an evening of talks about mental health, wellbeing and support for the farming community. Farming can be a challenging way of life. Find out how you can support your wellbeing and get the right help when you need it. There's no requirement to contribute – join us online, engage or just listen. Speakers from CALM – Campaign Against Living Miserably, Gay Farmer Helpline, an Accredited CBT Therapist, Market Chaplin, FCN Farming Community Network and Kingsbridge Young Farmers. Can't make it? Register anyway and you will receive a recording after the event. Register for the free event at: mhwinfarming2.eventbrite.co.uk

LISTENING EAR FOR BUSINESSES: 'If you run a business in Devon, Listening Ear is here for you. Have you had to close because of lockdown? Maybe you're having to adapt your business model for what seems like the hundredth time since March? Maybe you're struggling with reduced staff, or trying to run a business while home-schooling? Running a business is stressful at the best of times. Running a business during a pandemic is even harder. Listening Ear is a new service for Devon businesses that offers people a safe space to chat about those challenges. We're not here to offer business advice; we're here to provide a friendly, impartial listening ear so you can talk about whatever you feel you need to. Our experienced volunteers will provide a supportive ear and will also be able to signpost you to other services if you need them. Your wellbeing is important to both your health and your work life. Talking to one of our Listening Ear volunteers is a way for you to prioritise your mental wellbeing, especially when you may not feel comfortable talking to your friends and family about things. If you would like to find out more about talking to our Listening Ear volunteers please visit devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/listening-ear, contact info@devoncommunities.org.uk or call 01392 248919'.

AN HOUR TO SKILL: The Department for Education have launched 'An Hour to Skill'. This is a new Government campaign supported by a number of leading businesses and educational institutions, to encourage the nation to set aside just one hour a week for online learning by taking a free course from The Skills Toolkit. Learn about: practical maths, computer essentials, personal growth and wellbeing, professional development, business and finance, digital design and marketing, computer science and coding. Find out more about #AnHourtoSkill and The Skills Toolkit by visiting gov.uk/theskillstoolkit

INTERIM DEVON CARBON PLAN: the deadline to complete the questionnaire is 15th February, found online at devonclimateemergency.org.uk/consultation-questions-interim-carbon-plan/. Paper copies can be requested on 0345 155 1015. Alternatively, email environmentalpolicy@devon.gov.uk to request a copy.

KNIT FOR PEACE: distribute knitted and crocheted items to 200+ outlets, including hospitals, women's refuges, refugee drop in centres, prisons, community groups and hospices as well as to developing countries and refugee camps. They are currently looking for adults and children's clothing, including socks, mittens/gloves and hats as well as blankets and toys. Donations of spare needles or yarn are also welcome, which will be passed on to enable people on low incomes to knit. Donations should be sent to: Knit for Peace, Radius Works, Back Lane, London NW3 1HL. Further details at knitforpeace.org.uk Please note: they DON'T currently need twiddle muffs or clothes for premature babies.



DIARY DATES

5 th February (Fri)	Kernow Fisheries	Wembworthy, near the Church	10.15am
7 th February (Sun)	Church Service	Wembworthy Church	9.30am
15 th February (Mon)	Interim Devon Carbon Plan Questionnaire deadline		
19 th February (Fri)	Kernow Fisheries	Wembworthy, near the Church	10.15am
21 st February (Sun)	Church Service	Eggesford Church	6pm
23 rd February (Tues)	Mental Health & Wellbeing in Farming Webinar		6pm

March newsletter: if you have something that you would like included in the March newsletter, please drop me an email or call me by 20th February.

Jo Hunt Chair, Wembworthy Village Hall Committee (Tel: 01837 682938 / wembworthyvillagehall@btinternet.com)

(Information within the newsletter is correct, to the best of our knowledge, at the time of going to print; no responsibility will be taken for any changes made after this or for incorrect details)