



CLUN DIVISION

E-BULLETIN No 13

From Nigel Hartin

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COVID RESURGENCE



In March, with the full lockdown, Cllrs Nigel Hartin, Ruth Houghton and Heather Kidd began sending out E-Bulletins with useful advice and updates on COVID regulations, help available in the community and a whole host of other items. Now, with a significant increase in infections in the area they are going to redouble their efforts to enhance the coverage of their bulletin throughout their communities.

Nigel Hartin said: "The reason why the bulletin has been so successful is that it provides relevant, up to date information targeted at our own rural area - something that pronouncements from Government and regional agencies frequently fail to do.

"Starting with this edition we will be concentrating on how the rapidly changing situation will be affecting our country area along the border. If you know anyone who would like to be added to the distribution list then contact me on 07583 962292 or email nigel.hartin@shropshire.gov.uk."

COVID UPDATE

KEY POINTS OF LATEST ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE GOVERNMENT

Under the latest Government directive Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin will be placed in the lowest band of the Government's new three-tiered coronavirus restrictions

Covid-19 alert levels in England

Level 1: medium

Nationwide restrictions, including:

- only meet other people in groups of six or less ('rule of six')
- 10pm curfew for hospitality venues

Level 2: high

As Level 1, plus:

- no households allowed to mix indoors
- 'rule of six' applies outdoors, including private gardens

Statement 14th October from Shropshire Council:

Last week in Shropshire saw a further 222 confirmed cases, and Shropshire Council are strongly encouraging people of all ages, particularly the younger and working age population, to continue to play their part and help the county avoid further restrictions and a lockdown.

Shropshire's rate is currently at 69.3 per 100,000. 60% of Shropshire's cases are also happening outside of occupational settings.

If we reach 100 per 10,000 it is likely that we will be placed in level 2 (see above)



STEP UP SHROPSHIRE



HANDS

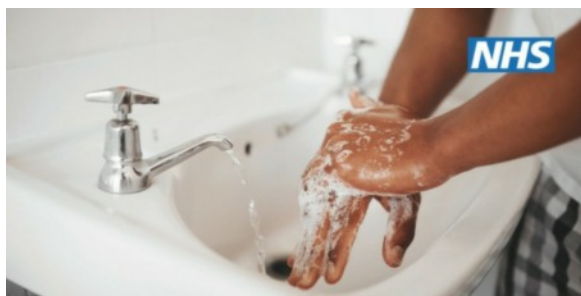


FACE



SPACE

INSIDE: BENEFITS, GRANTS, SCAMS, SpArC, HELPLINES



CORONAVIRUS STAY ALERT TO THE RISK OF INFECTION

Remember it's critical to keep washing
your hands regularly for 20 seconds.

For more ways to stay safe go to gov.uk/coronavirus

SHROPSHIRE CULTURAL CONSULTATION

Ambitious plans and priorities to shape the cultural landscape for the next 10 years have been put out for consultation. To Take part see:

<https://newsroom.shropshire.gov.uk/2020/10/cultural-strategy-consultation-2/>



Proceeds to Edgton Church and the Middle Marches Community Land Trust who have recently been successful in raising sufficient funds in a very short space of time to purchase Norbury Hill.

NEWS AND UPDATES:

WWW.SHROPSHIRELIBDEMS.ORG.UK

Scams

We have been told of a new telephone scam whereby callers claiming to be from the NHS Test and Trace service are asking for payment for tests.

Those being called are advised that they have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus and are then told they must purchase a test over the phone.

The NHS Test and Trace Service will:

- Call from 0300 013 5000
- Send text messages from 'NHS'
- Ask people to sign into the [NHS test and trace contact-tracing website](https://nhs.uk/contact-tracing)
- Ask for full name and date of birth to confirm identity, and postcode to offer support while self-isolating
- Ask about the coronavirus symptoms
- Ask people to provide the name, telephone number and/or email address of anyone they have had close contact within the two days prior to symptoms starting

The NHS Test and Trace service will NOT:

- Ask you for payment
- Ask you for details of card or bank account numbers
- Ask you to set up a password or PIN number over the phone
- Ask you to provide or fill in social media login details
- Ask you to download anything
- Ask you to call a premium rate number, such as those starting 09 or 087

SCAMS USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/information-advice/money-legal/scams-fraud/>

<https://www.nationaltradingstandards.uk/news/beware-of-covid19-scams/>

Dealing with HMRC: Phishing and scams:

<https://www.gov.uk/topic/dealing-with-hmrc/phishing-scams>

New Grant for Small Businesses

A new £630,000 grant scheme to help small businesses across the Marches which have suffered as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic has been launched. Grants of between £1,000 and £3,000 are available through the Marches Small Business Recovery Grant, which will help both tourism businesses and those in the wider economy.

Only small businesses in Telford & Wrekin, Shropshire and Herefordshire with up to ten full-time employees and who can demonstrate a negative impact due to the coronavirus crisis are able to apply.

<https://www.marcheslep.org.uk/marches-business-recovery-grant-launched/>

Free School Meals

If current circumstances have impacted on your family's finances you may be eligible for free school meals for your children. You can find out more here:

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals/are-you-eligible-for-free-school-meals/> to see if you qualify.

Alternatively contact : fsm@shropshire.gov.uk or 0345 678 9000

STEP UP SHROPSHIRE 

How long do you need to self-isolate for?

-  **10 days**
If you have symptoms or a positive test
-  **14 days**
If someone in your household has symptoms
-  **14 days**
If you arrive back in the UK from abroad*

*Excluding exempt countries

Book your test now by calling 119 or visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

You will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace if you have come into contact with an infected person. You must then isolate for 14 days

      www.shropshire.gov.uk

SpArC

THEATRE

On October 9, the theatre opened to a showing of the Personal History of David Copperfield, exclusively for friends and volunteers. The idea was to test safety procedures before opening to the public. A mixture of raked and cabaret seating was booked in advance, guests were escorted to it, and drinks served at their seats! It worked!

The next part of the plan is to show a weekly screening up until Christmas. These will include Giselle, Manon Lescaut and Uncle Vanya, as well as the above David Copperfield. If this succeeds, it's thanks to the hard work of the Theatre Manager and the team of dedicated volunteers who help her - it would just not be possible without them. If any of you would like to join them, please email liz@sparctheatre.co.uk

Tickets and further information available from Enterprise House or the Box Office 01588 630321 or 638038 www.sparctheatre.co.uk

FITNESS SUITE.

This is open on Saturdays and Sundays, 9-12 and the pool is open 9-11. This now includes children being able to swim in a family bubble (£20 for 45mins, max 6 people, changing room included) Pre booking essential.



Postal Voting

Anyone can apply to have their ballot papers sent to them by post, instead of going to vote in person at a polling station. By completing and submitting a postal vote application form, you can choose to vote by post:

Contact: Electoral Services at Shropshire Council:
elections@shropshire.org.uk or 0345 678 9015

Are you experiencing financial difficulties related to COVID-19?



Are you experiencing financial difficulty related to COVID-19? Worried about keeping your home? Call the Council's Welfare Support Team on 0345 678 9078. The Welfare Support Team can provide you with help, support, advice and signposting.

USEFUL LINKS

General information about Coronavirus
www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus
Information for businesses and the self-employed
www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/your-rights-and-benefits
www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits
Universal Credit
www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits/
Online benefit calculator
www.shropshire.gov.uk/benefits/online-benefit-calculator
Furniture and electrical goods
Reviive 01743 588458 South Shropshire Furniture Scheme 01584 877788
Citizens Advice Shropshire
03444 99 11 00 www.cabshropshire.org.uk

Covid-19 Helpline and on-line information

For non-medical support and enquires call direct Covid-19 Helpline 0345 6789028 or email customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk. On the Shropshire Council website, there is a wide range of information available to help support people. Find the full range of information here: <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-the-public/>. This includes the three directories on: food provision, community support and community social networks



Vaccinations protect you, your family and the community. Don't miss them.

It is important that you and your family still have routine vaccinations. They protect against serious and potentially deadly illnesses and stop outbreaks in the community.

Contact your GP practice for more information.

HELP US HELP YOU
GET PROTECTED

KEEPING YOUR COMPUTER SAFE FROM HACKERS

Here are some suggestions as to what can be easily done on Windows personal computer systems, mostly costing nothing, to minimise your chances of being caught by scams. (Mac's are intrinsically safer than Windows computers but cost more, which is probably why most people use Windows computers).

5 simple steps to increasing your security online for Windows computers

1) Use well reviewed Internet Security software such as: Kaspersky, Bitdefender or Norton (The current top 3 paid for software security systems) or Avast which is free, but has ads. (Windows Security, part of Windows 10, also now performs OK). Always ensure the security software is up to date! - Particularly before you make any online purchases!

2) Make sure you apply all the available updates for your operating system via Windows update regularly. Also make sure all your other software is updated regularly, updaters are often built into good security software like Kaspersky or you can use a free program like 'Patch my PC'.

3) Only visit secure sites which start with 'https' rather than any 'http' sites! - the extra 's' denotes that the site has a basic level of encryption built in, sites without the 's' don't! To help with this you can install a simple free app called 'https everywhere' which will ensure you don't accidentally get directed, eg through a link, to an less safe 'http' site.

4) Never use the same password on more than one site and use a password including letters, numbers & special characters of at least 15 digits long. To save you having to remember them all consider using a 'password manager', now bundled in most security software, or available in freestanding programs.

5) Consider installing VPN (Virtual Private Network) software - this encrypts the data going from your computer to the site you are visiting making it very unlikely that your data can be intercepted by a hacker. You get this software free in some Internet Security packages such as Kaspersky, or there is other free and paid for VPN software available.

Flood Grant Scheme Extended.

The Property Flood Resilience scheme which can pay up to £5,000 to rural business and farmers affected by flooding last winter has been extended. Applications for those flooded last November now need to be in by 31/12/21 and those flooded in February 2020 by 01/02/22

See:

<https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/drainage-and-flooding/be-prepared-for-flooding/property-flood-resilience-recovery-support-scheme-2020/>