



## STATHERN STAR: COVID 19 NEWSLETTER

**WELCOME** to this special online edition of the Stathern Star. Due to Government restrictions we are unable to get the Star printed but we felt that we should do something to bring together everything that is going on in the village and update you.

In this Newsletter you will find information about the village's response to the virus (or lockdown?); some updates on Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan; things to do, general news and information. The newsletter ends with the impact of the Plague which hit Stathern in 1646!! Lives were lost then - hopefully not this time!!

Please continue to follow the government guidelines and keep yourself and the village safe and we hope that our village will be able to get back to normality in the near future.

Joan and Sheryl

### **Village Provision**

Everyone has rallied round to make sure we can have as much of a normal life as possible. Leading this has been Adam and Lou who have completely changed the look of the garage and extending the range of items they have in their shop!! **As a village we are very lucky to have them here - so a heartfelt thank you to Adam and Lou and all their team for keeping the shop and garage open**

There are various places you can find the list of their provisions - and there are copies available at the garage. The easiest place is their website <https://www.coffee-shot.co.uk/> and click on Home Delivery Order form

Also providing a delivery and take away food service is The Plough Inn. You can order from Wednesday to Sunday :

Wednesday - Fish and chip night including sausages

Thursday - Spice house night including curries and chilli

Friday - Pie night - a choice of chicken, beef and veggie

Saturday - Burger and Pizza night

Sunday - Carvery

If you are interested, contact The Plough after 11am on either 07870899786 or 01949 860411. Orders can be collected directly from the Plough or they will deliver free within the village and, for a small charge to the surrounding villages .

Chris and Glenda, Eastwell's resident market traders, are running a stall outside their bungalow on Stathern Road, from 11:00am to 4.00pm, selling fruit, vegetables and potatoes. They will also provide a free delivery service of these items locally around the villages. They can be contacted on 01949 861693 or 07903 784844.

**Gardening supplies:** C&C Plants at Scalford are going to be selling their plants from early May. They are hoping to get a list on their website for ordering and it will include bedding plants, herbs and some perennials. They will deliver if necessary - full details either by ringing 01664 444464 or 07976 427208 or checking their website <http://candcplants.co.uk/>

The Idle Mole at Belvoir Engine Yard are closed and offering to deliver from a range of plants on their website <https://www.theidlehole.co.uk/>

## **VOLUNTEER HELPERS**

Every road in the village has a system of Street Wardens to help those who are self isolating or to support those residents who are over 70. I have used this myself and was very grateful for the help. You should have information about this, but if not please get in touch with Justine on 07702806685.

## **STATHERN CHAT:**

Stathern Chat is a WhatsApp group within the village which is open to all residents to join. The 2 people to contact are Carrie Fryer on 07773 324785 or Alison Shelton on 07801 970883

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

Obviously the Parish Council cannot hold their regular monthly meetings in The Plough. They are holding a meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April using Zoom to enable villagers to take part. Stathern Parish Council have a presence on Facebook as well as their own website [stathernparish.co.uk](http://stathernparish.co.uk) where there are details on how you can participate.

The Annual Village Assembly has been cancelled for this year.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Unfortunately the open event on 27<sup>th</sup> March had to be cancelled. Once the restrictions are lifted there will be further news on the plan.

## **STATHERN HOUSING MATTERS:**

**Stathern Housing Matters** is a voluntary, informal email which shares information on planning applications, housing related matters and the emerging Neighbourhood Plan in Stathern. To be added to the SHM Update database please contact me by email. Emails are sent by Blind Copy to preserve confidentiality. Alison Shelton, SHM coordinator, [alisonshelton999@gmail.com](mailto:alisonshelton999@gmail.com)

## **ST GUTHLAC'S CHURCH**

### **St Guthlac's CONTACT Newsletter**

Currently, production of the quarterly church CONTACT newsletter is suspended and has been replaced by a short electronic Newsletter organised by Peter Briant and sent out weekly. If you would like to be added to the circulation list please contact Peter at [petebriant@aol.com](mailto:petebriant@aol.com)

## **STATHERN WI**

Stathern WI are hoping to organise a virtual meeting for their members in May as well as a "live" programme for later in the year. For further information please contact Karen Mathias-Jakes, Secretary [karen.mathias@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.mathias@btinternet.com) or Mary Hughes, President [maryjhughes1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maryjhughes1@yahoo.co.uk)

## **DAVID AND JEAN COX**

The village turned out to wish David and Jean a happy retirement. A cheque was presented to them as well as gifts from the WI. Jean has been a stalwart supporter of the WI including serving as President.



We have had the following message from Jean and Dave

“We would like to thank all those who sent cards and Gifts on our retirement. It was very much appreciated and we will miss everyone. Thank you again Jean and Dave Cox.”

## THINGS TO DO

Sally Fagan has asked us to remind you all about the village library in the phone box.

### Library Update

The library continues to be well used which is very gratifying, with books being borrowed from all sections. The kiosk had been leaking and with so much wet weather we weren't able to make repairs as it needed to be dry. This meant I had to throw away quite a few books that had sadly gone mouldy. We have now managed to put some more sealant around the window panes and it appears to be a lot drier than it was.

Please, please do not dump unsuitable books in there - either I am left lugging them to a second hand shop or they go in the bin.

NO text books

NO hard backs (they are heavy on the shelves and difficult to store)

NO oversized books (that don't fit upright on the shelves).

NO games

Recently someone also left some children's games in there. These are stored on the floor (not very satisfactory) and owing to the current situation I have left them there. If anyone wants them, please do take them as they risk getting damp and unusable where they are, and sooner or later they will end up in the bin. Maybe someone else would like to set up a children's game store?

Books should be in good condition, suitable for leisure reading, and not too old. Please do NOT leave them in piles in the telephone box. If they don't fit upright on the shelves in their appropriate category, then please leave them in the side porch at 2 Birds Lane where I can catalogue them. I aim to put a colour sticker on the spine so their classification can be easily identified.

Any spare children's or teenage books would be very welcome.

Many thanks and happy reading!

Sally Fagan

**Looking for something different for Easter Monday -**

**Time for a VIRTUAL Tea Party!**





The sock trees are blooming, Easter is here. It's time to pop the kettle on and join us from the comfort of your own home, for our 9th Mad Hatter's Tea Party! This years event is extra special, due to an uninvited guest - COVID-19! We're mustering our creative troops to bring you fabulous on-line fun. So where ever you are in the world, peg your socks out, make your mad hat, dress up and dance, watch and listen, and join in the VIRTUAL FUN on Facebook.

Happy Easter everyone. Stay safe and read on.

Anna & Noodle xx

**NHW Update from National Crime Agency (see <https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/fraud-scams->**

## [covid19](#)) Beware fraud and scams during Covid-19 pandemic fraud

Criminals are using the Covid-19 pandemic to scam the public – don't become a victim.

Law enforcement, government and private sectors partners are working together to encourage members of the public to be more vigilant against fraud, particularly about sharing their financial and personal information, as criminals seek to capitalise on the Covid-19 pandemic.

Criminals are experts at impersonating people, organisations and the police.

They spend hours researching you for their scams, hoping you'll let your guard down for just a moment.

**Stop:** Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.

**Challenge:** Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.

**Protect:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud\*.

Your bank or the police will NEVER ask you to transfer money or move it to a safe account.

Criminals are targeting people looking to buy medical supplies online, sending emails offering fake medical support and scamming people who may be vulnerable or increasingly isolated at home. These frauds try to lure you in with offers that look too good to be true, such as high return investments and 'healthcare opportunities', or make appeals for you to support bogus charities or those who are ill.

Reports from the public have already included online shopping scams where people have ordered protective face masks, hand sanitiser, and



other products, which have never arrived and a number of cases have been identified where fake testing kits have been offered for sale.

Criminals are also using Government branding to try to trick people, including reports of using HMRC branding to make spurious offers of financial support through unsolicited emails, phone calls and text messages.

This situation is likely to continue, with criminals looking to exploit further consequences of the pandemic, such as exploiting financial concerns to ask for upfront fees for bogus loans, offering high-return investment scams, or targeting pensions.

Huge increases in the number of people working remotely mean that significantly more people will be vulnerable to computer service fraud where criminals will try and convince you to provide access to your computer or divulge your logon details and passwords. It is also anticipated that there will be a surge in phishing scams or calls claiming to be from government departments offering grants, tax rebates, or compensation.

**Graeme Biggar, Director General of the National Economic Crime Centre, said:**

“Criminals are exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to scam people in a variety of ways and this is only likely to increase. We need individuals and businesses to be fully aware and prepared.

“There is a wealth of advice available from dedicated counter fraud professionals, but in general you should always think very carefully before you hand over your money or your personal details.

“We are working together across law enforcement, government and the private sector to combat this criminal activity and protect the public. If you think you have fallen for a scam contact your bank immediately and please report to Action Fraud”. Reporting to Action Fraud can be done [online](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) [www.actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040. To report offers of financial assistance from HMRC contact [phishing@hmrc.gov.uk](mailto:phishing@hmrc.gov.uk)

<p><b>Remember if you see anything suspicious or have anything to report please contact Leicestershire Police by dialling 101. You can</b></p>
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now also report online via the Leicestershire Police website (<https://leics.police.uk>). In an emergency always call 999. Crimestoppers can be contacted on 0800 555111.

## **The Plague of 1646 in Stathern**

### **Stathern swept by plague!**

England has suffered from various bouts of bubonic plague (or Black Death) since 1348 when it first reached England. There are church records for Stathern of burials in 1646 which record the last outbreak of plague to invade the village. At that time the civil war between the Royalists and Parliamentarians was raging and the East Midlands, including Stathern, was swept up in the skirmishing. Col. Hacker, who lived at Stathern Hall (now demolished) on the hillside above Dalliwell, was one of Cromwell's key soldiers. He was a strict Presbyterian and opposed to the Anglican Church. The Rector of Stathern at the time was Revd. William Norwich who was on the side of Charles I. He would later be deprived of his living. Hacker, who signed the death warrant for Charles I, was executed as a Regicide, in 1660.

In 1646, Revd. Norwich records in the Burial Register for Stathern that there were 18 deaths due to plague. Among them were two daughters of Hacker, Barbara aged 4 and Isabell aged 8, and they were buried in Stathern Churchyard on 29 and 30 April respectively. No trace of their graves now exists.

In the Register, Revd Norwich put a cross against the name of the 18 who died to indicate the cause of death was the plague. The plague was characterised by victims dying quickly with few recovering, and Norwich added a note to the Register in Latin in which says he regarded it as a miracle that of all those in Stathern who showed the plague marks about a half recovered.

In 1665 there was the last major plague in England, the Great Plague. Fortunately, Stathern seems to have escaped the outbreak. Let us hope we escape the coronavirus also.

Roger Hawkins

