



EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

In the first instance parishioners should refer to www.gov.uk/coronavirus as this has the most up to date information.

Stay safe, protect Bucks

We know Covid isn't over, we know that risks remain, and whilst it feels like we're entering a new phase in this pandemic, with the current rise in cases none of us can be sure of what lies ahead in the coming weeks and months. Please remember that even if you've been vaccinated, you can still catch and still spread Covid-19, sometimes without knowing it.

The Pastoral Team at St Mary's, Eaton Bray and The Eaton Bray Good Neighbours Scheme also cover Edlesborough and Northall.



In light of the current Coronavirus situation the Pastoral Care Team at St. Mary's, Eaton Bray welcomes your assistance in identifying any of our parishioners who might be sick or otherwise benefit from their support during this challenging time.

Please contact Gaye Soule on 07807924218 (m) or send an email to admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk in this regard.

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The Eaton Bray Good Neighbours scheme will continue to operate and the details of what they do can be seen in FOCUS.

Call them on 07930 987064 if you need assistance and they may be able to help. The line is manned from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. At other times you can leave a message.

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If you know anyone living close to you who is not online or "internet savvy" please contact the Edlesborough Parish Clerk (01525 29358) for a printed version of this information.



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Dunstable foodbank

c/o Christ Church
West Street
Dunstable

Email: info@dunstablefoodbank.org.uk
Phone: 07874 200056

Dunstable Foodbank

Dunstable foodbank is here to supply emergency food parcels to individuals and families who live in LU5 and LU6 postcodes who cannot afford food.

Conventionally clients are referred to us by a number of agencies, but many are not operating normally in the Covid crisis.

People needing our help can approach Dunstable Citizens Advice - telephone numbers: 01582 670003 or 07367 457834.

Alternatively, we can be contacted directly by email: info@dunstablefoodbank.org.uk or telephone: 07874 200056.

It can be difficult for clients living in the villages to collect food from one of our distribution centres in Dunstable or Houghton Regis. We do have a delivery service that currently operates on Wednesdays and Fridays, although if demand increases we will add extra days.

We remain very grateful for the continued support of our volunteers and donors in this increasingly busy time.

Mike Pittam
Operations Manager Dunstable foodbank



Here is a link to a Universal Credit guide which some parishioners may find useful

<https://www.jobcentrenearme.com/universal-credit/>



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Update from Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

29th July 2021

Dear Resident,

The August holiday period is almost upon us so I thought it was an appropriate time for an update on the Covid situation across Bucks but also, now that the Emergency legislation has lapsed, some information on a number of other local issues.

As I said at the end of my last newsletter, I am now only able to send these newsletters to people who have signed up for them. If you know of other friends, neighbours or community groups who would find these of value, please encourage them to subscribe. The link to sign up is at the end of this newsletter.

Covid in Buckinghamshire

On 19 July, England moved to the final stage of the roadmap for unlocking and all current laws and restrictions around Covid were lifted, allowing some return to a more normal life. Covid has obviously not gone away, and increasingly, we have to learn to live with it, whilst taking personal responsibility to take care of ourselves, our friends and family and our community.

The latest data for Buckinghamshire for the week to the 29 July shows an infection rate of 318.8 per 100,000 residents. This is a fall from last week when it was at 381.5. There was a fall in all of the former District Council areas, with the highest rates now in the former Chiltern area at 362.3 and Wycombe area at 349.5. The former South Bucks area saw a small fall to 342.1 from 397.5. The former Aylesbury Vale area is lowest at 263.8.

The highest infection rates continue to be amongst residents aged 16 to 24 years and is likely to reflect lower vaccination rates in this age group. These are of course infection rates and do not necessarily reflect illness, as some people may show no symptoms, nor do these reflect hospitalisations.

It certainly appears that the vaccination programme has significantly weakened the link between infection and serious illness and death. As of 27 July, there were 10 residents in Buckinghamshire hospitals for Covid and one person has sadly passed away in the past five weeks.

You can get the latest data on Buckinghamshire at the Covid dashboard on our website: <https://covid-dashboard.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>

Vaccination

The vaccination programme in Buckinghamshire, after a slow start, has been a great success with one of the highest take up rates nationally. Over 699,831 (data as of 25 July) people have had their first or both Covid-19 vaccinations in Bucks (and you do need two doses to achieve the best protection possible). This goes a long way to keeping our place safer for all who live, work and visit here, alongside staying sensible and [following Government guidance](#).



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The various methods of getting vaccinated now mean that having to work late or being unable to drive to venues needn't been such a constraint:

- The **Health on the Move van** is out this week again visiting places in Wycombe, Chesham and Aylesbury vaccinating anyone who needs a first or second dose, and will be out on the road across Bucks again soon - [find the timetable here](#).
- The popular **drop-in Pfizer clinic at Stoke Mandeville Stadium** is now running until **16 August**. This means you can just go along any time between **9.30am and 7pm everyday**, no booking required! (Arriva bus numbers 9, X30, or 300 go from Aylesbury bus station to the centre.)

Please wear clothing that gives easy access to your non-dominant arm, and be aware you may have to queue for a short while.

You can [book online](#) or call 119 as normal, and any local last minute changes or clinic news will be published here on the [Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group webpage](#).

I want to thank you again for continuing to play your part. Please continue to look after yourself, your loved ones, and importantly each other in our wider communities across Buckinghamshire and the country.

Pressure on Accident and Emergency services

Healthcare services in Buckinghamshire (and nationwide) are very busy at the moment. This is not specifically Covid related but reflects the need to catch up on deferred treatments and the rise in other respiratory illnesses which have increased in prevalence due to people self-isolating. If you need medical assistance, please choose the right service for your condition so you get the help you need more quickly:

- The 111.nhs.uk service is a great source of information and advice, especially if you are not sure which service to use for your illness or injury. They can also arrange appointments at the Urgent Treatment Centre in High Wycombe or with an out-of-hours GP if necessary. You can also call 111 by telephone.
- You can use online tools like [AskFirst](#) (formerly AskNHS) as a symptom checker and to arrange appointments. Contact your GP for long-term conditions, chronic pain or persistent symptoms.
- Pharmacies are staffed by healthcare professionals and offer excellent advice and over-the-counter treatment or medicines for minor illnesses.
- Self-care - many minor injuries or ailments can be treated at home, with medicines or treatments you may already have. Make sure you keep some of these in stock.
- A&E - remember, A&E should be used for serious and life-threatening conditions. If it is not an emergency, or you are not sure, please check with NHS 111 first. But if it is, don't delay – call 999.

For more information on emergency and urgent care in Bucks, go to:

[Emergency and urgent care - Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust](#)



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Disruption to waste collections in the Chiltern and Wycombe areas

I would like to apologise to those residents experiencing some disruption to their waste collections.

Due to both a national unavailability of HGV drivers and a small number of COVID-19 related cases, including crew being required to self-isolate in line with Government guidelines, residents living in the Chiltern and Wycombe areas are experiencing significant disruption to their household bin collection service.

This isn't an issue isolated to Buckinghamshire as many other local authorities are unfortunately facing the same problems. We are working hard with Veolia, our contractor for those former District areas, to try to minimise further disruptions. This has included Veolia recruiting additional drivers to help get the service back on track and incentivising existing drivers to remain.

I want to thank residents for their ongoing patience and understanding as we and Veolia work hard to implement measures to improve the service. Currently, approximately 20% of scheduled collections are unable to be completed and are having to be carried over and rescheduled for the next day.

There are a few things you can do:

- **Please check the Buckinghamshire Council website before reporting a missed bin.** Rounds that the crews have been unable to complete are published online at the end of each day: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/bin-collection-recycling-and-waste/report-a-missed-bin-collection. If your address is listed, please do not report your bin as a missed bin as these rounds will have already been rescheduled and reporting a missed bin will cause unnecessary duplicates.
- **If your bin has been missed, please leave your bin presented and ready for collection.** The crews will aim to return to empty any missed bins the next day, but please continue to present your bin ready for collection until they have revisited. Please also ensure access to the road is kept clear so the crews can come back to carry out rescheduled collections.

Further information on Buckinghamshire Council's recycling and waste service can be found online, at: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/bin-collection-recycling-and-waste

If you or someone you know is a CPC qualified HGV driver covering both Class 1 and Class 2 and are interested in joining the Veolia team, please visit their [HGV vacancies webpage](#).

Damage to roads in the North of Bucks by HS2 and EWR works

We are very aware that a number of roads across the county have been damaged by the HGVs connected with both HS2 and East West Rail construction projects. The damage is particularly severe in northern parts of the county around Steeple Claydon. This damage is quite unacceptable. We are currently in intense and almost constant negotiations with both companies to get these roads repaired by them and brought up to a safe and usable standard. Very recently I met personally with Mark Thurston,



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the Chief Executive of HS2 to stress the importance of HS2 attending to these repairs and wrote again to him yesterday about this. We are determined that the companies responsible for the damage pay to repair the roads rather than having this effectively picked up by the Buckinghamshire Council tax payer.

Next newsletter

My next newsletter will be in early September and I would like to thank you again for signing up for this and future newsletters. Again, please let your neighbours and friends know they can also sign up for updates about the Council here:

[Sign up for our e-news](#)

Before I go, I would like to wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer. I am on holiday myself in August and looking forward to spending time with my family and friends and I hope you get the chance to do the same.

Martin Tett

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

Doorstep Scamming

Please find below information and advice issued by Buckinghamshire Council regarding doorstep scamming of the elderly and vulnerable during the corona virus isolation of such groups.

To report scams in the Buckinghamshire area please use the following link trading.standards@bucksandsurreytradingstandards.gov.uk or call on 01296 388788.

Doorstep scammers are taking advantage of the coronavirus emergency to con elderly and vulnerable people.

There has been a rise in the number of scam complaints related to the coronavirus outbreak, according to Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards team, who are urging members of the public to be aware. Since the beginning of the month the total number of scam complaints has increased by 40%.

Residents are also being urged to be especially wary of people offering or selling:

- Virus testing kits – these are only offered by the NHS.
- Vaccines or miracle cures – there is currently no vaccine or cure.
- Shopping or medication collection services that require payment upfront.
- Home cleaning services.
- Overpriced or counterfeit products.

Residents must also be wary of emails, texts, telephone calls and messages via social media from scammers offering refunds on taxes or bills, as these are highly prevalent.



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Trading Standards have provided some helpful tips to help prevent people from becoming victims of scams:

- Don't be pressurised into making a decision. If someone is trying to rush you or panic you, they are probably trying to scam you.
- Only purchase goods from trusted retailers.
- Be suspicious of requests for money upfront.
- Do not give your bank card or bank details to a stranger. Never write your PIN number down.
- Know who you're dealing with – if you don't know the person who's offering you help then ask to be introduced by someone that you know and trust.

If you have information or are worried about coronavirus related scams please contact Trading Standards. You can email

trading.standards@bucksandsurreytradingstandards.gov.uk or call on 01296 388788.