

Village Voice

Bringing News, Friendship and Support

Welcome to our first edition of Village Voice. Our aim is to foster a strong sense of community and mutual support, through the sharing of experiences and offering help and support wherever it is needed.

The contact details of our coordinators are listed below:

jackie.gent@outlook.com/07746017103

joan.topsat@gmail.com/01388763350

kath.parkin@yahoo.co.uk/01388766844

wearmouth@talktalk.net/01388764128

sophiecockburn@icloud.com/01388765122

davekidd99@yahoo.co.uk/07825528988

Do not hesitate to contact them if you are struggling to cope with shopping or collection of medication or even if you just want to chat on the phone. We might be home on our own, but we don't have to feel alone!

In addition, the council has provided the following helpline and information



**coronavirus
advice**

Follow the government's advice to

- Stay at home
- Only go outside for food, health reasons or essential work
- Stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

For more information visit www.durham.gov.uk/coronavirus

A message from Councillor Patricia Jopling

Hello All

I hope you are all keeping well and staying in,

The Council have put in place plans to help residents who live on their own and cannot get the services they need, any resident who needs help of any sort should contact this number 03000 260 000 if you cannot get through then contact me on 07387 253 808 just stay well look after yourselves.

Kind regards Cllr. Patricia Jopling

Overleaf we have started the ball rolling with our first contributions to sharing thoughts and experiences. We are hoping to collate many more of these so remember to send written, videoed or photographic recordings of your activities, musings and achievements to our coordinators. We are so looking forward to receiving them!

Hello from Sophie

It's strange this being confined to barracks. I live on my own since the children have left and am quite happy with my own company, but I am used to a busy social life and being able to go out at will. Now I only go out to take the dogs for a long walk on Douglas lane. This, I realise, makes me extremely lucky. I have walked along the lane most days for nearly 25 years and it has been my salvation. Sometimes, with my head buzzing, the fresh air, gale force winds and the wildlife have brought me back to normality. And in these strange times Douglas lane has rescued me again.

The curlews have returned and the lane echoes with their haunting cry as they wheel gracefully in the sky. Goldfinches, chaffinches, great tits, bluetits and yellow hammers are all easy to see as the hedges have yet to green up. The sheep fattening up in the last stages of pregnancy patiently await the arrival of their lambs. Life here continues as it always has and will carry on regardless. I find that thought comforting indeed.

Aren't the rainbow pictures appearing in windows lovely? They cheer me up as I walk through the village at the regulation distance from others, of course.

I am happy to do messages for isolated people, collecting medication, book exchange etc. The website Love Crafts has all kinds of embroidery, knitting and sewing from absolute beginner and beyond.

Keep busy and safe,
Sophie.

Spring

When Winter wends his weary way
And takes his frost and icy blasts
To a northern place where snow lies deep
We smile with pleasure and relief

Through the snow the snowdrops peer
Bringing promises of things to come
Of warmer days and new green leaves
The sight and smell our senses please

Crocuses in purple gold and white
Display their colours to the warming sun
Primroses peep from woodland floor
While squirrels delve in their winter store

Spring wakes us from our Winter ways
Of wrapping warm and closing doors
We welcome the sun rising high
Shining down from the clear blue sky

By June Wright

**STAY
HOME**

**PROTECT
THE NHS**

**SAVE
LIVES**

