

Souldern United Charity Homeschooling in Lockdown

If there are any Souldern households facing hurdles while trying to make home schooling with their children workable please consider contacting a Souldern United Charity trustee, as we may be able to help in some way.

Our contact details are shown below.



"That's usually not a good sign."



Extra time on your hands? Why not pop down to the newly formed Book Exchange which is currently based in the Church porch. There's a selection of books for children and adults alike. Please feel free to swap a book or two, just use the sanitiser provided, thanks.

Also in the Church porch is the box for food donations, which will be passed on to Polly's project in Banbury to feed the homeless and the local food bank helping families who need help in these difficult times.



NB : If any Souldern residents are struggling a bit at the moment please remember you can always contact Souldern United Charity (in confidence) as we're here to help, especially now after 10 months of this pandemic.



The first lockdown saw the formation of the Community Allotment scheme which has been a great success. There are now further starter plots being made available for anyone wanting to try their hand at growing veg, flowers or fruit. Plenty of advice on hand, Spring around the corner and a perfect lockdown activity in the fresh air, what more could you want? Larger plots also available for the brave/more experienced. Please contact Carol Gray (345965) or Sue Medhurst.

Community Support Group

Alan Smith, 07400 464401
Barbara McGarry, 07889 444616
John Hoodless, 07785 391591
Kirsty Allpress, 07734 544001
Laura How, 07710 242002
Nick Oakhill, 07845 594099
Neal Ship, 07785 738311



Souldern United Charity

David Blunt, 07850 616822
Chris Rothero, 07891 445095
Norma Jones, 07858 367616
Sue Medhurst, 07979 435961
Susan Jones, 07802 668434
Katy Draper, 07753 376163

The Souldern Shout-Out

Our Covid-19 Newsletter

Dear Villagers,

19th January 2021

This is a newsletter that we were not expecting to have to write!!

Ten months in and the daily news remains dominated by one news story in the UK, COVID-19, and its almost impossible to get away from it. To date in Souldern we have been affected in only a few households with positive cases. As a community our compliance to the restrictions imposed has been admirable, allowing us to get to this point in time relatively unscathed.

And whilst patience is wearing thin, now is not the time for our resolve to weaken. We have entered the next phase of this pandemic, where vaccinations are being given to the vulnerable groups. If anybody is not able to get to their an appointment for their job, please let us know and we will help you get there.

Please continue to abide by the government regulations and we will come out the other side of this together. If any households are directly affected by COVID-19, and need assistance, please contact one of the Community Support Network group, whose contact details are on the back page.

Stay at Home and Stay safe

[Community Support Network](#)

Parish Council news

Relatively speaking, things have been quiet for the Parish council over the winter period. Floodwater issues continue to afflict the area close to the pond. The storm drains have recently been cleaned out and are running freely at the moment. However there remain longer term issues for which solutions are being sought with the assistance of the local authorities.

The playground remains closed at this time and this will be the case for the foreseeable future. The majority of the equipment is going to need to be replaced as it is deemed to be unsafe. Background work is ongoing to begin this process. We are exploring ways of retaining the "big slide", but in the meantime please refrain from using the playground or slide.

Electric Vehicle Charging points

From a WhatsApp post way back at the beginning of last year the Parish Council made contact with Oxfordshire County Council to ask for advice/ guidance on the possibility of installing EV charging points in the village. At that stage we were the first parish to have contacted them.

A lead strategist for the Council advised us that a policy for delivery of a EVCP strategy was being formulated, and we would be kept updated. Last week I received an invitation to join a conference call to review the draft strategy, which is taking place at the end of this month. I will circulate a summary of their proposal, and links to it if available, but if it's not going to give us anything positive I have the contact details for some EVCP providers who can be invited to the village to let us know what's possible. *Nick Oakhill*



St Mary's Church Souldern Keeping Connected

Although live services have once again had to be halted for the time being, Helen and Andrew are still embracing technology and delivering live services via Zoom and recorded services via email. These services can be joined into by telephone for those that don't have access to the internet.

SUNDAY SERVICES

11am Live Sunday Service - Via Zoom

Sunday Morning Service - Recorded and sent via email

DURING THE WEEK

Tuesday & Friday - Morning Prayer - link via email (*recorded*)

Due to restricted opening times if you wish to go inside the church for private prayer or some quiet time please give Barbara a call on 01869 345931 or 07889 444 616 and I will see that it is opened for you.



The Fox Inn is open for Takeaways

If you want to treat yourself during this lockdown, perhaps it's your birthday, anniversary or just because you got through another week, then the Fox is doing takeaways on Friday and Saturday nights 5.30-7.30pm, plus Sunday lunchtimes 12-2pm until further notice.

Details of the specials on offer each week are available via the SSSC Whatsapp, the 3Parishes FB page and the Fox's website. Orders can be placed by texting 07871335866 or leave a message on 01869 345 284. Paul & Les appreciate your ongoing support!

Old Chapel building update

Having circulated a newsletter to every household in November about the future of the Old Chapel building, response to date has, on the whole, been very positive. There is, justifiably, concern about potential conflict with the Village hall. Every effort is being made to ensure that there is no crossover between the two venues, and it is hoped that the two buildings will be owned by the Village Hall Charity if we proceed with the purchase.

To date the three most popular suggestions for use of the building are;

- ◆ Village archive, reading room and Library
- ◆ Social club/ Film club
- ◆ Educational centre - Sunday school and The Rural environment

The fundraising is moving forward with pledges totalling £30,000 in hand to date. As our target is £75,000, there is still work to be done on this, so please contact either Ian Gray, Charlie Jones or Nick Oakhill if you would like to discuss the possibility of making a donation. A number of external organisations will be approached as potential sources of funds, but the further we can get on our own the better.

A huge thankyou must go to those who have already made pledges to the project, we hope that you are providing us with the foundations to build on for securing this building as an Community asset.

As social distancing guidelines prevent us from holding the open days we had originally intended to host, a video is being produced which will allow viewers to get a look around the building remotely. We hope to have this available shortly.

