



LAPFORD LOOKOUT

YOUR LOCAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Year 23 Issue 6

September 2020

A VILLAGE STEPS UP!

As the waters subsided from a rather wet winter and our Emergency Planning team started to breath a sigh of relief, the spectre of Covid 19 seemed to come in faster than the waters receded!

Although the Lapford Emergency Action Planning group (LEAP) had, for some time, been considering pandemics (what seemed in 2019 as a remote possibility), focus was generally geared to the more realistic difficulties posed by snow and flooding to a hillside village bordering a river!

As the news of a strange new virus from the East started making headlines and spreading to the UK (and the LEAP team started to look at what might be needed), it became clear that a prescient group of concerned villagers not connected to LEAP had already started setting up a network of volunteers to help at the beginning of March, way before any Government advice for village support networks started to hit the headlines! Such is the true nature of this community.

It became clear that the best thing LEAP could do was to apply the full mechanics of its resources, through the Parish Council, to support this embryonic group of concerned residents, and the two parties met to co-ordinate this.

Although fraught with difficulties in the early stages (such as what support was going to be needed and what could reasonably be provided), the teams worked well together and Lapford's Covid19 response was established. This took the shape of:

- ✓ *Emergency shopping and collection service*
- ✓ *Prescription collection service*
- ✓ *Posting and Post Office support*
- ✓ *Pet exercising*
- ✓ *or just a friendly phone call!*

It soon became clear that we needed to increase the number of surgeries served and organise a clear set of operating procedures for new volunteers. To date the groups have achieved;

- *Setting up a dedicated village helpline number and email address*
- *Designed and distributed posters and information leaflets*
- *Set up a Lapford Village website to provide latest information and Government guidance*
- *Online logging software configured to log and coordinate all requests for help*
- *Risk Assessment completed and Volunteer Guidance & Procedures handbook published*
- *Volunteers recruited and insured to operate under the Parish Council*
- *Successful application to Devon County for over £4,000 of support funds*
- *PPE and ID Badges produced for volunteers and their vehicles*

As of mid-August, we have; 14 active handbook-trained volunteers; a further 48 recorded offers of help on stand-by; 325 jobs have been served including over 100 trips to collect prescriptions.

A huge thanks to everyone involved in the project, the volunteer shoppers and prescription collectors, the phone answerers, the planners, the IT experts, Lapford Cross SPAR, local surgeries and of course our customers.

Sadly the emergency is not over. The teams continue to operate a full service bearing in mind that, with the approach of winter and the prospect of a second wave of infection, the need for this service is as great as it was in the Spring. If you would be able to offer support in this crisis, please use the contact details below.

Thank You Lapford!

Picture submitted on behalf of Ann and Michael Imbert:



LAPFORD EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM CORONAVIRUS LOCAL HELP

Phone:
07966 144772

Email:
help@lapfordvillage.co.uk

Facebook:
Help The Vulnerable in our Community
(Lapford)

Lapford Voluntary Car Aid
Grace Hill on 83178

TRIBUTE TO JAN



The Lapford Lookout Editorial Team pays tribute to Jan Parsons who succumbed to terminal cancer on 20 May 2020. Jan will be sadly missed by all friends and readers of the Lapford Lookout where she was the Editor in residence. Jan had bravely battled with her terminal illness while maintaining her complete dedication to your community magazine.

Husband Bill describes Jan as a "strong and determined woman who carried on regardless". To the Lapford Lookout Jan applied her terrific skills developed through a dedicated career within the NHS and brought together with a firm caring hand that was always thoughtful of others, honest and truthful.

Keep the flag flying on the A377 Lapford gateway.

The Lapford Lookout Editorial Team



NEWS FROM ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

The Parish Church is holding a **Lay Led Morning Prayer** service **each Sunday at 9.30 a.m.** This is fully 'socially distanced', the order of service is shown on a screen with the congregation parts highlighted. Hymns, just two verses, are 'hummed' not sung.



Our services are open to all Christians in Lapford regardless of where you normally worship, and members of other congregations in the area are very welcome. You may wish to take part by doing readings or giving intercessions – please just ask.

Our first **Common Worship Eucharist** will be on **Sunday September 20th at 9.30 a.m.**, which we will be led by the Archdeacon of Exeter.

The Parish Church is also open for **private prayer** on Wednesday mornings from 9.00 a.m. to 12 noon. Please follow the Covid-19 precautions as detailed on the notices and sign the register for Track & Trace. Hand sanitiser is provided.

The **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** will take place in the church with social distancing on Friday 4th September. The public part of the meeting will be between 2.15 and 2.30 p.m.

Looking ahead – following consultations with the Archdeacon, the PCC intends to move ahead this autumn with works in the south west corner of the churchyard to free up space for another 15 to 20 burials, as the churchyard is now almost full. This will involve cutting back the hedges and other growth in this area to the boundaries, relocating the excavated stone (which being consecrated, cannot leave the churchyard) and removing some 20 years of compost heap. Any offers of assistance or suitable mechanical equipment will be most welcome.

VILLAGE MARKET WILL NOT RE-OPEN

After careful consideration it is with great regret and sadness that I have concluded that the monthly Saturday Village Market will not resume. This is due to the changes resulting from the current situation of the country and changes in my own personal circumstances.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the stall holders and the support the villagers gave us by coming to the market each month. If there is anyone who would like to take the market over feel free to contact me on 01363 84574 or email appleton48@outlook.com. Finally, on a happier note, Jean has had her operation and is well on the way to recovery. Take care and keep safe.

Barbara

NEWS FROM LAPFORD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Lapford Congregational Church will be opening for Services, including Sunday School, at 11 am. on Sunday 6th September. Social distancing and all the rules for opening church buildings as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic will be observed.

All services in September will be led by our Minister, Reverend Caroline Stott.

An open air Concert, "Musicals Through the Ages", will be performed by Mawgan Stott at Lapford Mill on Saturday 19th September. Tickets £5, pay on entry, bring your own picnic. Details to be published, for further information contact Peter Lacey on 07775 941505. The concert is to raise funds for Lapford Congregational Church.

NEWS FROM LAPFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH

A name changes in the village.

Lapford Community Church is now the name adopted by the Yeo Valley Christian Fellowship that meets in non covid times on a regular basis in the Victory Hall and also runs The Ark in the centre of the village.

The name change came about through careful consideration by the leaders of the church and our ongoing desire to be at the heart of this community with all Christians in this locality.

Along with this change came the launch of our new website which gives an insight into everything that goes on within this church and The Ark. With no services held at present we would also encourage everyone to join us for our Sunday online services.

The Ark, though still closed at present continues to run the Lapford Food Bank and is always grateful for donations of appropriate food and will be there to support the village community in these difficult times.

The website is easily found if you search Lapford Community Church.

God bless you all in these difficult times.

The Leaders of Lapford Community Church



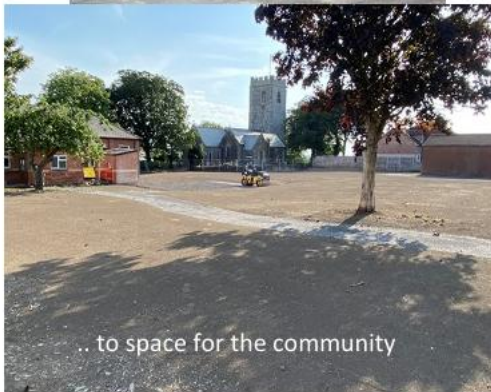
DATES TO LOOKOUT FOR September 2020

- 4th Annual Parochial Church Meeting, 2.15pm in the Parish Church (with social distancing).
- 19th Open Air Concert "Musicals Through the Ages" performed by Mawgan Stott at Lapford Mill.
- 20th Common Worship Eucharist led by the Archdeacon of Exeter, Lapford Parish Church, 9.30am.

LOWER TOWN PLACE

Lower Town Place will be opened for YOUR Enjoyment sometime during October

Through the Lapford Lookout and at every public meeting opportunity we explained that our committed purpose was to turn Lower Town Place from a derelict farm site



.. to space for the community



LAPFORD LOOKOUT CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS



The Lapford Lookout has a new email address with effect from 1st September.

lapfordlookout@gmail.com

**Deadline for inclusion in the next issue:
6 pm on the 14th September for inclusion in October issue**

LAPFORD FOODBANK WISH LIST



Lapford Foodbank is currently short on rice, tinned soups, fruit and vegetables, and are also low on tea and coffee as well. Washing gel and washing up liquid always come in handy too.

Thank you.

EDITOR WANTED

Lapford Lookout is recruiting a voluntary Editor to steer the helm on content and production of this monthly magazine and to lead the Editorial Team of six enthusiastic volunteers.

Essential skills include creativity and communication, patience, the ability to work as part of a team and to have experience in electronic publishing in our technological age.

The job involves checking the Lapford Lookout email and drop boxes, preparing for copy deadline on the 14th, laying up 28 to 32 pages of copy and adverts for Editorial Team one week later, uploading 'proof' to printers, pick-up liaison and notification of the Delivery Team. Call Steve 07967 655045 or Caroline on 01363 83863.

WE'RE BACK

It's been ages since March when the editorial team produced the last April issue with cancellation of so many events due coronavirus the pandemic. Heady days when the world turned upside down when spring turned into the sunniest summer on record.



Well we are all back with a much reduced **kickstart edition** of the Lapford Lookout. It's in this form to give our volunteers time to check out advertisers who may have changed in some way and with you our readers, so that you can tell us what new plans you'll be putting in place for publication in the October issue. October is when we hope to get back to full production but we will need your help to do this. Sadly Jan Parsons the Lapford Lookout Editor succumbed to her courageous fight with cancer in May. Without Jan's help future issues of the Lapford Lookout will depend upon success in recruiting a new volunteer Editor and we are always looking for new people with new ideas to help with the Editorial Team.

Since April much has happened or didn't happen. Covid-19 stopped the clearance and landscape work at Lower Town Place. This restarted in July, grass is planned to go down for September and the area open for use in October. All other activities just did not happen as all venues were forced to close. No Revel, Lapstock, Spring Show, Village Market, no ARK, Victory Hall, or any church services, no football, indeed all 47 societies and community groups listed in the Lookout came to a grinding halt! Thursday at 8 pm in April, May, and June being the exception; as folk gathered outside their doors to clap and make joyful noise of 'thanks' in appreciation of our dedicated NHS and Key Workers and a rainbow flag fluttered from the church tower.

The Editorial Team would like to acknowledge the many acts of kindness shown by Lapford folk during the ongoing pandemic. This includes those of you who have made a special effort to keep in touch with your friends and neighbours, helped out with shopping, collected prescriptions, loaned books, jigsaw puzzles, etc, left plants and vegetables in the Memorial Shelter, and those who've phoned with a kind word or offer of assistance. We live in a wonderful village. Thank you all.

Lapford Lookout Editorial Team

CORONAVIRUS LETTER TO HUMANITY

The earth whispered but you did not hear.
The earth spoke but you did not listen.
The earth screamed but you turned her off.

And so I was born....

I was not born to punish you....
I was born to awaken you....
The earth cried out for help....

Massive flooding. But you didn't listen.
Burning fires. But you didn't listen.
Strong hurricanes. But you didn't listen.
Terrifying tornadoes. But you didn't listen.

You still don't listen to the earth when Ocean animals are dying
from pollutants in the waters,
Glaciers are melting at an alarming rate,
There is severe drought.

You didn't listen to how much negativity the earth is receiving.
Non-stop greed.

You just kept going on with your life,
No matter how much hate there was....
No matter how many killings daily....
It was more important to get that latest iPhone than worry about
what the earth was trying to tell you....

But now I am here.

And I've made the world stop on its tracks.

I've made YOU finally listen.
I've made you take refuge.
I've made you stop thinking about materialistic things.

Now you are like the earth....
You are only worried about YOUR survival.

How does that feel?

I give you fever.... as the fires burn on earth.
I give you respiratory issues.... as pollution fills the earth air.
I give you weakness as the earth weakens every day.

I take away your comforts....
Your outings.
The things you would use to forget about the planet and its pain.
And I made the world stop....

And now....

China has better air quality.
Skies are clear blue because factories are not spewing pollution
into the earth's air.

The water in Venice is clean and dolphins are being seen because
the gondola boats that pollute the water are not being used.

YOU are having to take time to reflect on what is important in your
life.

Again I am not here to punish you; I am here to awaken you....

When all this is over and I am gone; please remember these
moments....

Listen to the earth.
Listen to your soul.
Stop polluting the earth.
Stop fighting among each other.
Stop caring about materialistic things.
And start loving your neighbours.
Start caring about the earth and all its creatures.
Start believing in a Creator.

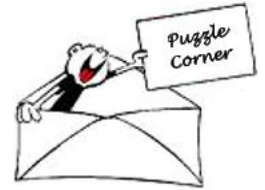
Because next time I may come back even stronger....

Signed

Coronavirus

PUZZLE CORNER

The puzzle this month is how many
words can you find from



'coronavirus' ?

This has been kindly submitted by Mary
Chappell, thank you. Answers next month!

BALLROOM DANCING

It is hoped that the Sunday evening beginner's Ballroom
Dancing classes may be able to resume in some form or other
in the Autumn. It would seem likely that as Coronavirus
restrictions are reduced, it may be feasible for couples that
live together to be able to dance together in some sort of
sequence dancing that keeps everyone moving in the same
direction. Other couples made up of single people from
different households may have more difficulty, but we can
address that in due course.

Regular members who danced at all last year
will be kept up-to-date via the existing email
mailing list. Any new couples that might like to
join this group should please contact me at
steve@lowerfieldhouse.co.uk to be put onto
the mailing list and be kept up-to-date with
developments.



Steve Munday

APRIL ISSUE DITLOID ANSWERS

Here are the answers to the Ditloids published in our April
issue.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. 366 DiaLY | Days in a Leap Year |
| 2. 60 SiaM | Seconds in a Minute |
| 3. 4 SiaY | Seasons in a Year |
| 4. 12 MiaY | Months in a Year |
| 5. 24 HiaD | Hours in a Day |
| 6. 31 DiM | Days in May |
| 7. 1,760 YiaM | Yards in a Mile |
| 8. 10 YiaD | Years in a Decade |
| 9. 12 PiaS | Pennies in a Shilling |
| 10. 100 PiaP | Pence in a Pound |
| 11. 76 TltBP | Trombones Lead the Big Parade |
| 12. 1000 MiaK | Metres in a Kilometre |
| 13. 52 WiaY | Weeks in a Year |
| 14. 8 PiaG | Pints in a Gallon |
| 15. 3 FiaY | Feet in a Yard |
| 16. 6 WoHtE | Wives of Henry the Eighth |
| 17. 3 BM | Blind Mice |
| 18. 52 CiaD | Cards in a Deck |
| 19. 20,000 LUtS | Leagues Under the Sea |
| 20. 30 PoS | Pieces of Silver |
| 21. 12 SotZ | Signs of the Zodiac |
| 22. 360 DiaC | Degrees in a Circle |
| 23. 7 DiaW | Days in a Week |
| 24. 26 LitA | Letters in the Alphabet |
| 25. 7 WotW | Wonders of the World |

NOTICE TO OUR ADVERTISERS

Lapford Lookout will be contacting all advertisers to check that you are safe, well and prepared to continue with your paid advert in this monthly magazine hand delivered to over 600 homes in Lapford and Nymet Rowland.



If due to Covid-19 your business has changed circumstances we understand, and we will do what we can to help.

To readers: *The Lapford Lookout is only possible through the financial support of local businesses. In turn we ask you to support our Lapford Lookout advertisers.*

Two contributions have been carried forward to the October issue due to pressure on space:

TRIBUTE TO BUSTER

MOORLAND VIEW VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

Read all about it next month!

JAN PARSONS

Dear Editorial Team,

As you know, my dear wife Jan passed away in May after a long battle with cancer. She had been very proud to have been Editor of the Lapford Lookout for some time before her sad death, enjoying the role greatly.

We had not been in Lapford very long when her cancer was diagnosed, but she was a strong and determined woman who carried on regardless of the way the illness – and the chemotherapy – affected her. She loved the village and the life she was able to make here, and the many kind people who welcomed her into the community.

Whenever we discussed the village and the residents that she knew, she could only recall a couple of instances where pleasantness and kindness didn't prevail, once to her and once about her behind her back. A small thing relative to all the good.

During the final weeks of her life Jan was cared for at home by a North Devon Hospice Nurse, and during the end stages as an in-patient at the North Devon Hospice. She was treated with endless kindness and consideration by these people, their sole purpose being to allow her a pain-free and dignified passing. They were also unbelievably kind to me and other members of our family. Any of your readers of a charitable nature should seriously consider any form of support they can offer to this truly wonderful organisation.

So, thank you Lapford, a lovely village inhabited by lovely people. I am so glad that Jan was able to enjoy her final years here.

Good luck to the next Lookout Editor, you have a hard act to follow.

Bill Parsons
August 2020

THANKS

I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to the very many lovely people in Lapford who are voluntarily taking the time and trouble to help those who can't, or shouldn't do certain things for ourselves. For my kind neighbours making sure I have the shopping I need, and checking that all is well with me while age and asthma keep me shut in splendid isolation. For the Lapford emergency group Help for Lapford who are collecting medication, and phoning from time to time to check up on me. It means a great deal to know that our lovely village holds so much kindness and goodwill, with extra thoughtfulness. Thank you very much, all of you.

Stay safe,

Mary Brown

MORE THANKS

I would like to thank all those involved with the processes and the laying out of Lower Town Place green. I can see it is going to be a huge benefit to the village, it's an amazing space and well thought out.

PS A cheeky ask that can we have a bandstand in memory of a man who did a lot for our village and loved band music who also deserves recognition - Edwin Passmore?

A huge thank you to David Garton for all you have done in this lovely village. I really enjoyed your quizzes and all the history you have managed to bring alive.

Best wishes

Mary Chappell

VILLAGE QUIZ NIGHTS

THE
VILLAGE



Raising money
for village
good causes
for over 20
years!

@ Victory Hall

EVERYBODY WELCOME

With regret I am stepping down from organising the regular Fun Village Quiz Nights at the Victory Hall. These have been a regular fixture on the village social calendar and tend to raise over £2000 a year for village good causes with focus on our young people in recent years - Friends of Lapford School, the village Scout Group and the Playing Field, etc. I do hope they can continue and I am wondering if there is anybody out there who wants to have as much fun as I have had dreaming up questions and seeing good causes benefit. Please let me know if you are interested and I will be more than happy to hand across what I have.

David Garton



Lapford Weather Review

LAPFORD OUTREACH POST OFFICE

OPENING HOURS:

Monday 9.00 - 12.30
 Wednesday 9.00 - 12.30
 Friday 9.00 - 12.30

LAPFORD WEATHER MARCH 2020

Perhaps surprisingly, a very average March. The first fifteen days saw a continuation of rain and wind, much like the rest of the winter. The final fortnight saw not a drop of rain. There was a high incidence of ground frost and sunshine, leading to mild days and cold nights.

The mildest day was the 24th with a maximum of 14.0°C, the coolest was the 5th with 5.9°C being the day time temperature. The coldest night was on the 26th, with a slight air frost of -0.5°C and a ground frost of -7.2°C. The last 10 days of the month all had ground frosts, not good news for your tender plants or nesting birds. The fresh winds made it seem particularly chilly.

Total rainfall was 86.5 mm, a little wetter than average. The wettest day was the 4th with 17.3 mm rain falling.

The windiest weather was shared by three days: the 11th, 28th & 29th, all of which had gusts of 43 m.p.h.

LAPFORD WEATHER APRIL – JULY 2020

In a nutshell, we have had a warm dry spring and a cooler wetter summer, thus far.

April was a good deal milder than average, and lacked the hoped for April showers, until the last couple of days anyway.

The warmest day was the 11th with a maximum of 24.6°C. The coldest night was on the 1st, with a minimum of -0.2°C. Several other nights had low temperatures, with quite hard ground frosts. Rainfall total was 20.0 mm, with nearly all this falling in the last four days. The period from the 19th March to the 15th April saw just 1 mm rain.

May was again milder than average overall and exceptionally dry.

The warmest day was the 27th with a maximum of 26.3°C. The coldest night was the 12th with a minimum of -0.7°C. The night of the 14th also had an air frost, quite unusual for this late in May. Several nights had ground frosts, these falling to -7.5°C on the night of the 14th. Rainfall total was 4.9 mm, the driest May I have recorded in over 30 years. This was caused by very persistent areas of high pressure near to or over southern Britain. Another unusual feature of this May was the very strong wind on the 22nd and 23rd, with a peak gust of 49 m.p.h.

June saw a return to near average temperatures but was also very wet, thus making up for the lack of rain the previous two months.

The warmest day was the 25th with a maximum of 28.3°C. The coolest night was the 9th with a minimum of 5.8°C. Total rainfall was 150.6 mm, more than twice the average, but not quite the wettest June. Two very wet days were notable. The 10th saw some heavy bursts and a total of 37.8 mm. The 18th was however the wettest day with 56.0 mm, the wettest day of any month that I have recorded. This was a day of non-stop rain with some quite heavy spells mixed in.

July was cooler than average and fairly dry.

The warmest day was the 31st with a maximum of 26.4°C, the coolest night was on the 11th with a minimum of 6.5°C. The 20th actually saw a touch of ground frost, a very unusual occurrence in the middle of July. Rainfall amounted to 37.7 mm, with no particularly wet days, just some damp days interspersed with some dry days. A fairly breezy first week saw the wind gusting to 39 m.p.h. on the 5th.

Andy Epstein



I'm normally a social girl
 I love to meet my mates
 But lately with the virus here
 We can't go out the gates.
 You see, we are the 'oldies' now
 We need to stay inside
 If they haven't seen us for a while
 They'll think we've upped and died.
 They'll never know the things we did
 Before we got this old
 There wasn't any Facebook
 So not everything was told.
 We may seem sweet old ladies
 Who would never be uncouth
 But we grew up in the 60s -
 If you only knew the truth!
 There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
 The pill and miniskirts
 We smoked, we drank, we partied
 And were quite outrageous flirts.
 Then we settled down, got married
 And turned into someone's mum,
 Somebody's wife, then nana,
 Who on earth did we become?
 We didn't mind the change of pace
 Because our lives were full
 But to bury us before we're dead
 Is like a red rag to a bull!
 So here you find me stuck inside
 For 4 weeks, maybe more
 I finally found myself again
 Then I had to close the door!
 It didn't really bother me
 I'd while away the hour
 I'd bake for all the family
 But I've got no flaming flour!
 Now Netflix is just wonderful
 I like a gutsy thriller
 I'm swooning over Idris
 Or some random sexy killer.
 At least I've got a stash of booze
 For when I'm being idle
 There's wine and whiskey, even gin
 If I'm feeling suicidal!
 So let's all drink to lockdown
 To recovery and health
 And hope this awful virus
 Doesn't decimate our wealth.
 We'll all get through the crisis
 And be back to join our mates
 Just hoping I'm not far too wide
 To fit through the flaming gates!

By Jan Beaumont (not Pam Ayres)

OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN LAPFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Two vacancies have arisen on the Parish Council following the resignation of Councillors Briony Clinch and Jill Doe. Many thanks to both of them for their dedicated service to the Council and the village over a number of years. They leave huge gaps in the experience and expertise of the Council as a whole and we wish them well for the future.

Due to the Coronavirus emergency there can be no elections for Councillors until May next year at the earliest, so in order to fill the vacancies it is possible to co-opt new councillors who could then present themselves for election in due course.

Candidates for co-option should bear the following in mind as a good Parish Councillor should:

Have a good working knowledge of and interest in the community and local affairs

Be forward thinking

Be willing to listen to and represent the views of parishioners regardless of his/her own opinions

Offer skills or expertise to forward the work of the Council

Listen constructively

Be a good team player

Be willing to learn and undergo training

Represent the Council to the community in a positive way

Have the time to attend the meetings of the Council and other affiliated or associated groups as may be required.

A candidate must have been resident in the parish for at least twelve months or employed in the parish as their main place of work for that time.

For further eligibility information, co-option procedures and application forms please visit the Council's website www.lapfordparishcouncil.btck.co.uk or contact the Parish Council Chair, Ian Hemsworth, on 01363 884460 email i.hemsworth@btinternet.com

More information on the work of Parish Councils and Councillors can be found on the website of the Devon Association of Local Councils www.devonalc.org.uk under 'All About Local Councils'.

LOWER TOWN PLACE—NEXT STEPS

The proposed site layout was published for you to feed-back your thoughts in the April Lapford Lookout. Much of the heavy lifting and major landscape work has been achieved. Two temporary screened containers are to be put on site to increase storage and flexible use of the Victory Hall.

Please visit the LTP site to view larger map or look back to the April Lapford Lookout

September Update

- As there were no feedback comments on the footpath proposals these have been laid before grassing the site.
- Feedback requested hedges not fences. Your thoughts please? *Time will be taken for discussion with YOU the community before planting.*
- Meanwhile, to make the site safe for children and young people playing and to protect neighbours, temporary fencing will be erected. *An offer has been accepted to supply all the fencing material needed at no cost.*
- Volunteers will help an experienced fencing contractor to erect the fences in time for the October opening. **Can you help?**
- Church Green Trustees have agreed to restore the stone bank on their boundary with the new space. **Can you help to raise funds for this?** *Until restoration temporary fences will be used to protect the bank.*
- Storage Containers require screening. **Your ideas? Can you help?**
- The low stone edging to the pavement will be restored.
- Feedback asked for wildflowers on the churchyard boundary. **Can you help?**
- Do **you** have other ideas that will enhance our public space?
- Once Covid restrictions have been lifted and we return to normal then there will be many opportunities for community involvement and ideas sharing for the future. **Your views are and will be needed.**
- An opening is planned for mid-October.

IT'S OVER TO YOU TO HELP WITH NEXT STEPS

Something to offer? Please contact
Darren Crump [Victory Hall] darrencrump99@hotmail.co.uk
Peter Norman [HOLD] peter.norman64@gmail.com

Facebook: HOLD Heart of Lapford of Development



NEW TRAINS FOR LAPFORD

Many will be aware that, after years of campaigning, since early July seven additional trains each weekday now stop by request at Lapford. For the first time since 2003 Lapford residents are able to make short social, shopping, or business trips to Exeter or Barnstaple without being constrained by having to travel outwards first thing in the morning and then not being able to return until the evening.

The Parish Council continues to campaign for even more trains to be allowed to stop here and further services may start as

soon as September or December this year when the timetable undergoes its periodic review and update. Further enhancements to services may be agreed by Network Rail only a few days before commencement, by which time it is too late to communicate to the village through the Lapford Lookout. You should therefore always check train times using the National Rail website at www.nationalrail.co.uk. Beware that other railway timetable websites such as TheTrainLine are often not up-to-date so it is always advisable to start with National Rail.

Lapford Parish Council Regeneration Committee

Exeter to Barnstaple	weekdays					
Dep. Exeter St David's	07.08	09.19	12.19	16.18	17.20	21.23
Dep. Lapford	07.38	09.51	12.52	16.49	17.51	21.55
Arr. Barnstaple	08.25	10.28	13.28	17.27	18.33	22.33

Passengers should be aware that while very few people are using the trains, these trains may pass Lapford up to 5 minutes early.

Barnstaple to Exeter	weekdays						
Dep. Barnstaple	07.22	08.35	10.35	13.35	15.35	17.33	18.38
Dep. Lapford	08.00	09.06	11.06	14.06	16.06	18.06	19.12
Arr. Exeter St David's	08.35	09.41	11.41	14.41	16.51	18.55	19.52

THANK YOU LAPFORD

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank the people of Lapford who answered the call early in Lockdown and emptied their treasured button tins and also donated fabric.

Let me explain what was happening. Devon WI asked for help, initially with help making headbands for healthcare workers. These were a scarf type headband which had a button sewn at each side. These were to help health workers who had developed sore ears with elastic from wearing face masks for many hours of the day.



A number of ladies in the village answered the call cutting out headbands from duvet covers and any spare fabric to contribute to the effort. Many people helped by donating buttons which were required in big numbers. I actually lost count of how many we made but at one stage it was 450 so you can get an idea of how much work went into this and also how many buttons were sourced.

The next item we were asked for were knitted mask mates which also required two buttons. These were simply worn on the back of the head with mask elastic attached at each side to the buttons. Another group, this time knitters, volunteered to make these. Yet more buttons were required and people of Lapford dug deep, often parting with buttons that they had treasured for some time. Leftover balls of wool were donated and around 600 mask mates were produced. I often opened our front door to find donations of button had been left on the step. Other contributions also appeared in a box at the Ark.

The WI had stopped their efforts and Lapford continued making items that were requested by the RD&E as there was an ongoing demand and then later also for the North Devon Hospital and also for the Nightingale Hospital.

All the hospitals have been very appreciative for the many items that have been made and delivered. I am also aware that other individuals made face masks for nursing homes and out patients for people who attend appointments without a face covering. This means that the hospital do not have to provide single use masks. Scrub bags for healthcare workers to take their uniforms home in to be washed were produced and these items have been very well received. Staff can and will continue to use the scrub bags long into the future as they make their life easier.



I wish to thank each and every one of you for your contribution, large or small. We certainly could not have done this without you. I am reluctant to name individuals for fear of missing someone out but you know who you are! Give yourselves a huge pat on the back.

A great effort all round Lapford. You should be proud. It felt very good that, even in a small way, we were helping during a very difficult time.

Sue Harle