

HIGH BARNET GOOD NEIGHBOURS

EASTER NEWSLETTER

Happy Easter Everybody!

We had the Government “roadmap” announcement on 22 February which has given us indicative dates for when we might start returning to some sort of normality.

If you are in one of the top four categories for the first Covid jab you should by now have received an invitation to have the jab. If you have not received an invitation you should give your GP a call, or failing that and you need some assistance, call Diane in the Good Neighbours office **(0208 441 5678)**.

For us in the Good Neighbours Office and some of our volunteers we have now received our first Covid injections and we are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to resume driving and other roles in the foreseeable future, but not until at least the second injection has been issued (both for Drivers, Gardeners and Neighbours). In the meantime we continue to offer assistance for essential shopping and collection of prescriptions. Additionally if you would like a friendly voice to have a chat with, give Diane a call and she will match you with one of the fantastic volunteers in our telephone Befriending Scheme.

A reminder that we still have a good range of books and puzzles to help pass the time. If you would like some books or a puzzle(s) give Diane a call to make the necessary arrangements. Enclosed with this newsletter is a word search in case you are not a reader or puzzler.

There are a range of organisations offering help and assistance and our friends at the Puddenecks have recently published a very

helpful guide which includes advice on help available from Age UK, The Citizens Advice Bureau, Barnet Council and Mind UK amongst others. Services offered include financial assistance with energy payments, debt management, winter fuel payments, home alterations, free gas safety check etc. If you would like a copy of the guide please call Diane.

From 1 August 2020 people aged over 75 no longer receive a free TV Licence unless they receive pension credit. Anyone who had a free licence on 31 July 2020 need do nothing until they receive a letter asking for payment. Generally speaking, people who are 75 years old and receive pension credit can claim a free TV licence. People who are blind or have a severe sight impairment can claim a 50% discount on the licence whilst people who live in sheltered housing and watch TV in their own separate accommodation can get an Accommodation for residential Care (ARC) licence which costs £7.50.

We recently heard from The Flower Bank who are located in Leicester Road in New Barnet. They collect flowers and plants that are no longer wanted and turn them into beautiful arrangements for all occasions at very reasonable prices. They can be contacted on **0208 364 9444**

Ready, Steady, Census 2021 Is Here...

Census day is March 21 - all households in Barnet are going to be contacted and asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941 when it was not possible due to the Second World War.

For the first time this year some focus will be given to residents completing the Census online. From the 15th of March households will be sent a letter that gives an access code, this will allow people to log on and complete the questionnaire on either their computers or smartphones. Don't be put off by this - if you don't want to complete the Census on-line you can call **0800 141 2021** and get a paper copy. If you have any issues please contact Diane on **020 8441 5678**

Finally, we had originally planned to hold an Easter Fund raising raffle but have decided to postpone this, probably until the Summer, but if anyone would like to donate a prize for the eventual raffle we will be happy to care for it until the draw.

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www.goodneighbourscheme.org

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Prime Ministers

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