



Founded 1983

East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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INTERIM NEWSLETTER 1 – March 2020

As the covering note says, coronavirus COVID-19 is clearly a threat to us all, but it's also an opportunity. It's an opportunity, amongst many other things, to catch up on all those jobs you've really meant to do for ages and, in the context of this newsletter, to communicate something helpful, useful, interesting or even funny to the other EDAS members, and to those beyond EDAS who also get the newsletters – it seems that there are quite a lot.

This first interim newsletter will concentrate on topical items that I've found or been sent – some not so great news that you probably already know, but also as many positive things as I've found.

I still intend to send out the usual newsletter early each month, and to continue that through the summer months when we don't usually have a newsletter, **if I've got enough material**. That will still be biased towards, though not exclusively, items of antiquarian interest.

I'll also continue this series of interim newsletters, with luck not for too long. These will be more biased towards topical items and news that's of more general interest. If we hear of any activities that could involve people during the summer, respecting social distancing of course, it will be in one of the newsletters (fieldwalking in 25m transects??).

Neither of these newsletters will contain very much if you don't send me your contributions. So now is the time to start looking out those photos of a trip you took, to write a short article about something you think is interesting, to pass on things you've heard, received or seen on the news, or that gives people things to do. And any positive suggestions to help us through these difficult times will be very positively received. Don't worry if what you've got is a bit rough – I can always tidy things up if needed or expand upon them a little.

I'm hoping to be inundated so please send your contributions to a different email address than usual to help me cope:

geoffnsue19@gmail.com.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EDAS ADDRESS OR REPLY TO THE COVERING EMAIL as that just means Peter has to pass them on.

Many of you will know much of what's below. I don't mind as long as some of it helps somebody to stay safe, well and occupied.

Geoff Taylor

5 positive things from the outbreak

Increases in acts of kindness - just people helping others out, even in big cities where people are traditionally self-centred; some examples below.

A more united front – communities are actually coming together more, such as the morale boosting songs from balconies and windows in Italy or people re-connecting with long-lost friends.

Increased creativity – enforced isolation becomes an opportunity to become creative, e.g. people sharing their hobbies and giving online teaching.

Pollution down significantly – e.g. nitrogen dioxide is massively down in China, carbon monoxide has fallen 50% in New York.



Water quality has improved – sediment settles as a result of less water traffic, e.g. fish can be seen in Venice canals.

And some not so good

There are reports of people calling at homes claiming to be health workers, from the utilities over some form of problem, etc., as the basis of a scam or to gain entry. No-one should be calling on you unless you've asked them to – DO NOT open the door to them.

And, of course, there is a great deal of fake news going around and the inevitable 'spam' emails. One I've received says *"Your Gov. Is Lying To You ... Military Source Exposes Shocking TRUTH About CORONAVIRUS"* with the picture shown here.

Obviously, for anything you think is spam:

- DO NOT click to play
- DO NOT click on any links
- DO NOT try to reply
- DO NOT try to *Unsubscribe*



MOVE it to your junk folder if it's not already there, which should get your app or programme to recognise any future emails from that address as junk, and you could also Block future emails (check online for how to do this for your email host). Of course, spammers often use many different email addresses.

DO delete the email (and perhaps even delete it completely from your Deleted folder!).

From the Sunday Times:
Day two without sports. Found a young lady sitting on my couch. Apparently she's my wife. She seems nice.

**If you can, do think of ways you could help your neighbours;
you might be surprised who actually needs (or can give) help.**

A friend in Haywards Heath is involved in setting up a WhatsApp group for everyone in their road, which is already proving valuable, not least in making a few new friends.

Our normal policy is never to give out members' addresses or contact details.

However, if you need any help, e.g. with shopping if you're self-isolating, and don't have someone nearby who can do it, let me know what you need:

geoffnsue19@gmail.com.

I'll search our membership list for a few people in your area and send a group email to them, and you, to see if someone can do it.

I do realise that some people will be unable to provide any support.

If you object to your contact details being passed on, or can't be involved, please let me know.

Food banks increasingly need your support to help the less fortunate people in your area, and demand always increases when children aren't at school. Most food banks have means of taking monetary donations, but they always need more supplies. Food donations have inevitably fallen in the current situation, partly as groups that provided support can no longer meet.

**Please check online how to support your local food bank,
there's usually a current list of things they particularly need.**

Wimborne Food Bank now aim to make deliveries to people who are self-isolating, but have had to cut sessions to once a week to limit risks to volunteers. They can accept your donations at the Community Centre, Gordon Road, 10-12 every Friday, or in boxes at Waitrose, Co-op and the Allendale Centre.



We had been intending to go to our local Italian restaurant (Piccolo Mondo, Wimborne) in the middle of last week, but ...

Then I passed The Old Thatch at Ferndown and they had a sign out saying "Takeaways available - support your local". So I looked at Piccolo Mondo's website and, right up front, was a notice that they do takeaways, you could pay on the phone and they'd deliver to your car if you phoned when you arrived – so we did. They said that they were working on online ordering and deliveries.

I checked the Wimborne Tandoori and Rimjhim, who obviously do takeaways, but they weren't then ahead of the game like Piccolo Mondo, though I'm sure they'll do similar if asked.

Well, now it's only takeaways rather than being able to go out, but that makes a change from what you have at home (and it's a way to get some rice or pasta, which have been in short/non-existent supply at the shops).

MORE IMPORTANTLY it's a way to support local businesses and/or your favourite restaurants – we should all do that as much as we can to help ensure they survive the difficult times.

Is this the latest must-have fashion accessory?



I thought that one of the things you could do to get out of the house was to visit Kingston Lacy grounds, which the National Trust were keeping open without charge. A member of Wimborne U3A confirmed that the toilets were open! I've just heard that the NT are closing all their gated estates and properties. However, a quick check of the website, suggests Kingston Lacy is still open at the time of writing: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kingston-lacy>.

Check the U3A website for lots of up to date information on keeping safe and things to do or get involved in: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>. One thing is about keeping in touch if you don't have internet access, e.g. setting up a rotating phone tree so each member of a group is responsible for calling others, or even use telephone conferencing. OK, so pretty much everyone who gets this is on the internet, but you may know people who aren't.

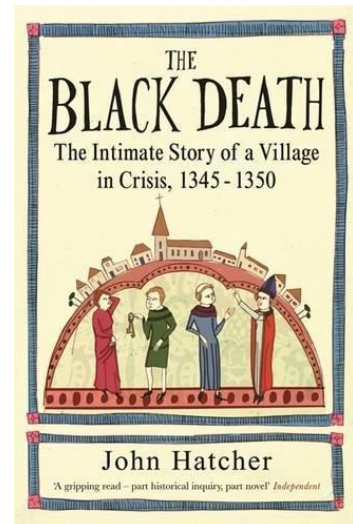
There is a website called Wimborne Views and News that offers help and other good news from the area but, as you can see, it's a Facebook group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/578491462192479/>.

I don't do Facebook, but if you do use it please let me know of anything interesting shared on the site.

Thanks to Dr Charles Rees, a GP and one of our members, for this: "I would recommend Professor John Hatcher's book *Black Death*. It is a fictional account but based on the records of the village of Waltham le Willows in Suffolk, arguably the best documented village during this awful event. Each chapter explains the records, which he then puts into a fictional account. It will put things into perspective!"

And my wife, Sue, recently read a book by Minette Walters, a Dorset-based author of course, called *The Last Hours* – a fictional account of a Dorset village in the grip of the Black Death. The village is called Develish, which seems to be based on Dewlish. There's also a sequel, *The Turn of Midnight*, perhaps covering some of the social changes that happened as a result of the plague.



All these books are available online from World of Books, Amazon, etc.



I'm wondering if, before this is over, my hair will have become the length it was in my (slightly) dissolute student years, albeit a bit thinner and a bit lighter coloured. But will it still be as curly as it was (it isn't a perm, honest)?

My Dad was so keen to get the photo when I'd hitched back up North from my London University looking like this (amazingly people were prepared to give me lifts), that he left his finger over the lens. No chance of taking loads of photos, or checking what you'd taken, in those days.



My son-in-law, famed for not having any DIY interest or skills at all, has already jet-washed all their paths and drive, and had new felt delivered to redo the shed roof. We'll all have immaculate houses and gardens soon.

Some of this might be a bit Wimborne-centric, but that's where I live.
So send me news and information from where you live:

geoffnsue19@gmail.com

And please keep it coming, but apologies if I get so much that I can't thank you all.