



NEWSROUND MAY 2020



Welcome to the second Newsround in the period of Social Isolation due to Coronavirus. Once again there are 2 different versions as information that applies to Yoakley House is different to that for the almshouses.

LOCKDOWN: We are delighted and thankful that we have no residents with symptoms in Yoakley House and those from the almshouses who have been unwell seem to be getting better.

The government have ordered that the most vulnerable people in the UK are isolated for 12 weeks which means they must not leave their homes. This ends around **15th June**. It is our intention not to allow visitors into Yoakley House until that date at the earliest so that we protect the vulnerable residents here.

The Summer Fair planned for 3rd June will not be taking place nor will the Garden Party on 10th July or the National Garden Open Days.

We realise how hard it is not to be able to be together, but we must do what we can to keep everyone safe. If there is any change to this arrangement, we will of course let you know. As the weather improves Yoakley residents may want to use the gardens. You may chat briefly but please stand a good 3 metres away just in case either you or they have the infection with no symptoms!

STAFF: Most of our staff are continuing to work as usual with Donna, Mandy and now Julie the warden working from home. There is now a facility to for staff tested right next door at QEQM car park so that will be useful should anyone need it BUT You have to have symptoms for 3 days before this test can be applied for. We will be welcoming Scott to the kitchen team as soon as he has passed his initial training and DBS check.

NEWSPAPERS: The newspaper shop which delivers here plans to reopen on 11th May. In the meantime we will collect and deliver papers to those who normally have one when staff happen to be shopping.

ENTERTAINMENTS: I have asked several of our entertainers if they would be prepared to come and sing in the garden now that the weather is warmer but most have declined up to now as they do not feel they can justify this as an essential journey. We will continue to ask as restrictions change. A few have recorded shows which we have been able to play on the large television for Yoakley residents but it is not the same as a live show. Church services have continued with the ministers preaching from their homes Facebook Portal.

VE DAY: We are planning to have another **outdoor event** on **Friday 8th May** at 3pm which would have been our VE Day 75th Anniversary Party. **Social Distancing will still apply.** We are delighted that Jules who came at Easter will be singing to us again and The Mad Hatter Tea Room will kindly be providing a special “afternoon tea in a box” which you can enjoy whilst still isolating. We’ll put the flags out! Please pray that we have a nice warm afternoon so we can enjoy being in the garden.

DRAPERS HOMES

Please continue to stick to the Social Isolation and only go out if it is absolutely necessary (such as for a medical appointment). We need to keep you safe and well.

SHOPPING: We are able to order most things from our regular food suppliers including Tesco, getting deliveries about once a week. If you need anything just phone through to Yoakley with a list and we will do our best to get what you need. Most things are now back in stock although the number of items you can buy might be limited – if we can't get it this week we will try again the next.

MEALS: Hot meals continue to be delivered from Yoakley at lunchtimes. If you would like one, please call and ask. They will be left in your porch so you will need to leave your outside door open. Cost £6.

BILLS for meals, shopping and other services you have will be delivered to you at the end of the month and you can pay by cash or a cheque as a staff member passes by. That way we will limit the times we handle cash especially while Yoakley office is closed.

If you do get symptoms of the virus or are unwell in any other way do let us know. We may not be able to come into the cottage but will support you as best we can with delivering what you need, especially if you have no local family members living locally.

ACTIVITIES: We are sorry that we cannot let you in to Yoakley House to join in the activities at the moment but we will continue to ask all our regular entertainers if they are prepared to perform in the grounds so you can all join in from a distance. Keep an ear open Thursday afternoons! Anyone who can access youtube on their own device can see "Fred Barker (Mr Cool) show for Yoakley" anytime. It was really kind of him to record this just for us. The children who visit from Holy Trinity School really miss coming and send their love to those who know them.

SPECIAL REQUEST: Pie Factory is a local charity that works with teenagers. They are working hard at the moment to do activities online for vulnerable young people while youth clubs are closed. They have asked if we could do something "historical" for VE Day with them. We would like to borrow any items you may have from yesteryear that someone under 20 would not recognise so we can make a video quiz for them to guess what it is used for (such as a darning mushroom and bicycle clips which we already have) If you have any such thing we could borrow please let us know and we will collect it from you. Also if you can remember any old outdoor games they might like to try we would love to film you doing them – with social distancing of course. Thank you

Remember we are here to support you however we can during these difficult days. Keep smiling. We are in this together!