

## COVID-19 UPDATE AND ADVICE FOR TOLLESBURY RESIDENTS

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### WHAT'S CHANGING?

The nation is unlocking in gradual steps. Tolls Vols too!

As from today the helplines close, area patrols cease; and red/green posters can be taken down.

But you can still reach us: [tollesburyvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:tollesburyvolunteers@gmail.com); our website

[www.tollesburyvolunteers.com](http://www.tollesburyvolunteers.com) stays live for the time being; and Tailer Charity remains available to everyone in Tollesbury – apply in confidence via [tailercharity@gmail.com](mailto:tailercharity@gmail.com)

Responding to suggestions for a continuing resource for the village, A Tollesbury Volunteer Support Group is being created – please see over for details.

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### “THANK YOU” FROM THE CHAIR, TOLLESBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Just 15 months ago, a number of people responded to an invitation from Tollesbury Parish Council to brainstorm how we could support each other through the Covid-19 crisis. As a result, Tolls Vols was born. A newsletter was distributed to each house with a red/green poster, and funding was allocated for helplines, printing and other support. To that initial group – a big thanks for kickstarting something so amazing.

Huge thanks are owed to many people. First of all, Roy Clare, who set up and led Tolls Vols, ably assisted by a small Steering Group. Secondly, the Tolls Vols Area Co-ordinators who ensured every home was covered. And thirdly the Volunteers who gave up their time and made it work so brilliantly.

Backing them up were Fellowship Afloat led by Andrew Eastham, doing the printing and assisting with distribution. Also, we are fortunate as a village to have the Tailer Charity, who responded promptly and helped considerably when needs arose. Thank you, Trustees!

Our gratitude also goes to those working in the village shops, businesses and faith communities; to everyone providing essential

services and to all care-workers, not least the Pharmacy team and the Surgery. These are the people we all saw in action, but we know there were also countless other daily acts of neighbourliness and support going on across Tollesbury. HUGE THANKS to everyone. What a great village! Finally, my personal thanks go to my fellow Councillors, and in particular to our Clerk, Michelle Curtis, who stepped up as Secretary to Tolls Vols while also enabling us to adapt to online meetings and stay on top of normal Parish business. A big thank you, Michelle!

**Simon Plater, Chair**

### IN OTHER NEWS

***Tollesbury Amenity Pool*** will open at the end of June once the restrictions finally end. The Parish Council are unable to open it before due to the need for social distancing (as confirmed by Risk Assessors and Insurers). Let's all hope for a good July and August!

***Tollesbury Climate Crisis Partnership*** is now up and running. Phil Manning has kindly volunteered to coordinate the first few months of activity. Please join the Partnership – contact the Parish Clerk.

## **TOLLESBURY VOLUNTEER SUPPORT GROUP – THE FUTURE**

Several people wish that a small group of volunteers could continue to contribute time, expertise and know-how to assist residents in Tollesbury.

Various activities have been suggested, such as:

- Mentoring young people who live in Tollesbury, to personalise and extend work experience and careers advice provided by schools. DBS-cleared volunteers and local businesses could spread awareness of vocational training, apprenticeships and career choices.
- Lending a hand to residents who need assistance, perhaps because of age, infirmity, illness or job loss, for whom advice on pathways through the bureaucratic maze, practical help and moral support can make all the difference.
- Being available as a first point of contact to serve the community in various good deeds; and to support any village-wide initiatives from time to time (including – in a worst case – reforming as a larger group if a pandemic makes that necessary).

Excitingly, as we close the database for Tolls Vols, around 30 people have so far volunteered to stay onboard to become members of Tollesbury Volunteer Support Group. If you would like to do so too, please email [tollesburyvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:tollesburyvolunteers@gmail.com) ... we would love to have your support.

## **FINAL WORD FROM THE STEERING GROUP**

Tolls Vols have answered Helplines, lent a friendly ear, made deliveries and collections, fetched prescriptions, helped residents fill in forms, cope with officialdom and communicate with housing associations. Volunteers have cooked meals, been shopping, helped folk claim benefits, obtained grants, moved a resident to their new home; and generally enabled families, friends, neighbours and residents to survive a difficult period. Tolls Vols have done these things and much, much more. We are extremely grateful to all of them – and also to Tollesbury Parish Council, the Trustees of Tailer Charity, Janet Russell for her expertise, and everyone else in our village who has provided reassurance in challenging times and played a part in keeping us all safe.  
**Roy Clare, Michelle Curtis, Andrew Gilbert, David Hillyer, Tom Lowther, Gemma Snow and Emma Stephens**

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## **CONTACTS & RESOURCES**

**Tolls Vols:** [tollesburyvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:tollesburyvolunteers@gmail.com) – requests, suggestions and information

**Tolls Vols website:** [www.tollesburyvolunteers.com](http://www.tollesburyvolunteers.com)

**Parish Nurse (Jo Lacey):** 07368 498 908 or [nurse@blackwaterparishnursing.org.uk](mailto:nurse@blackwaterparishnursing.org.uk)

**Samaritans:** 116 123 – whatever you're going through call anytime

**MIND:** 01206 764 600 – info on local mental health services (9am-5pm Mon-Fri)

**Age UK:** 0800 678 1602 – UK's leading charity helping older people

**SHOUT:** text 85258 – struggling to cope, only a text away

**Kooth.com** – free safe and anonymous support

**CalmHarm App** – free app for those worried about self-harm

**Tollesbury Surgery:** 01621 869 204

**NHS111:** dial 111 or [www.111.nhs.uk](http://www.111.nhs.uk)

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Tolls Vols News is sponsored by Tollesbury Parish Council – Parish Clerk Michelle Curtis: 01621 869039

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[www.tollesburyparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.tollesburyparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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