

**APRIL
2020**

LEEDSTOWN NEWSLETTER

**WHAT'S
GOING ON?
KINDNESS &
SUPPORT**

**Forthcoming Events
ALL SUSPENDED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

**Forthcoming Events
MAY**

**SUSPENDED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

POST OFFICE VAN

**The Post Office Van will NOT be available on
Wednesdays until further notice.**



In these uncertain times stay positive.

Keep safe.

Lots of help on the internet for those who have access.

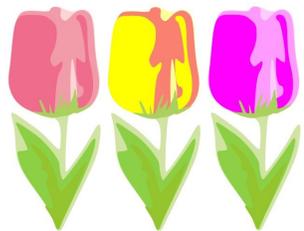
There are apps so that we can talk to and see our friends and relatives.

Socializing will resume but for the time being we have to abide by new rules to keep each and everyone of us safe.

It was great to hear people clapping the other evening in support of our wonderful NHS. Don't forget if you want to show your support for it's workers, it's happening every Thursday night at 8 pm.

Lets not forget our refuse collection men/women, our postmen/postwomen, teachers and all those fantastic front line workers.

Rainbows are also appearing in peoples windows, showing we care and to cheer others up.





Duke of Leeds
01736
850273

SORRY FOLKS

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

NO FILM CLUB UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Praze shop is offering to deliver to Leedstown is there is a large enough order from villagers.

Val Clifford has offered for anyone interested to help or place an order by contacting her by email on

val.clifford142@btinternet.com or praze shop direct

prazevillageshop@gmail.com

A big thank you to Val.

**Car Parking &
Disabled Access**

Minister
Rev Paul
Benney
01736 762122
Email paul.benney@methodist.org.uk

**If anyone needs support please
contact our Minister :
Rev Paul Benney on 01736
762122**



**Leedstown United Methodist
Church**

Message from Rev Paul Benney

*He is free and happy to call/chat anytime, email always open.
Stay connected, safe, loved and faithful. God is round about
us and can we be dismayed. Have a look on line there is an
amazing array of worship/prayer and inspiring testimony,*

Rev Danny Reed has circulated a communication regarding the current Coronavirus restrictions to inform all circuit members of the cessation of social gatherings as we have duty of care towards the vulnerable in our community. All worship and planned events within the circuit are now suspended for the foreseeable future. As we proceed through these uncertain times please all support those who are presently isolated and offer assistance as able which may take the form of telephone contact rather than in person.

**This situation will pass and we will all be able to meet again.
God bless you all.**

oooOooo

LEEDSTOWN VILLAGE HALL

The village hall has been required to close for the time being. Jackie Perrin has been very busy. She has had our account books audited. The new boiler has been serviced to keep our guarantee valid. Jackie has also organised our five year electrical test. Finally she has booked a builder to lower the serving hatch sill between the kitchen and the hall. Thank you very much Jackie.

Chris has repaired the split in the roof over the meeting room. Thank you Chris.

All the committee look forward to the resumption of normal activity in the hall.

Alan Barnes MBE



Parish Clerk

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer for the Leedstown Community Speedwatch scheme?

This is a new initiative being launched by Devon & Cornwall Police.

Councillor Roger Smith is co-ordinating a response from the Parish Council and would be most appreciated to hear from anyone who feels they can commit some time to this.

Email roger@arden51.plus.com

The Chronicle

After great discussion between Editor, Treasurer and the printers they have decided not to continue printing the Chronicle until further notice. They do not wish to put any of the elderly and vulnerable in any danger. They hope you understand their decision in the current circumstances.

Leedstown Farm Shop is doing deliveries.

01736 850278

In praise of gorse



Throughout the winter months, it is a delight to see the yellow flowers of gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), or furze as it is also known. Flowering is usually most profuse from March to May, but there is no time of the year when gorse in flower cannot be found somewhere. Hence the old saying "When gorse is out of bloom, kissing's out of season".

The name "Gorse" comes from the Old English "gorst" which means wasteland, and that is where it flourishes. In Cornwall it is a common plant of the burras (waste dumps).

Gorse is an important shrub that provides shelter and food for many insects and birds, such as Dartford Warblers, Stonechats and Yellowhammers. Traditionally it was used as fodder for cattle, being made palatable by "bruising" (crushing) with mallets, grinding to a moss-like consistency with hand or water driven mills, or being finely chopped and mixed with straw chaff. Gorse is also eaten as forage by some livestock, such as feral ponies, which may eat little else in winter. Ponies may also eat the thinner stems of burnt gorse.

Gorse has had a great variety of uses over the years. Its obvious protective qualities make it an excellent, impenetrable hedge when it is kept closely cut. It has frequently been used to encircle disused mineshafts. Placed inside wood panelling, it was a deterrent to rodents. As a source of fuel, both domestic and industrial, gorse was cut in early summer and, after drying, was stored after being made up into faggots (bundles). Because the gorse burnt far too quickly to serve as a fuel by itself, large quantities of turf were also cut, dried and stored in ricks alongside the gorse.

The ashes of burnt gorse, which are rich in alkali, made an excellent soil dressing; another use was as a detergent in washing, either in the form of a solution or mixed with clay and vegetable oil and made into balls, as a substitute for soap. The leaf buds have been used as a substitute for tea, and the flowers yield a vivid yellow dye. The seeds are mildly astringent, containing tannin, and were used to treat diarrhoea.

Gorse festivals were held regularly in various parts of the world; for example, in Bandon, Oregon, and the village of Pont-Aven in Brittany. In the Land's End district it was once traditional custom for the friends and relatives of a newly married couple to visit their bedroom on the wedding night, remove the couple from their bed and beat them with a stocking filled with sand, and then put a bush of gorse into the bed.

Locally Gorse can be seen on the waste piles at North Binner Downs copper mine, Leedstown,

Tony Clifford

January 2019

To receive an electronic copy or for inclusion in the Newsletter
send to Tricia Barnes by the 22nd of the month at
leedstownnewsletter@gmail.com