



THANK YOU!  
**NHS**  
& Key Workers

# Battenhall: pulling together

## Hello neighbour!

The public response to the coronavirus pandemic in Battenhall has been overwhelming. Louis and Tom have been helping to coordinate support efforts with a network of volunteers collecting essential medications and delivering food supplies as well as directing people to other services.

**“We would like to say a massive thank you to the people in Battenhall who have become community covid-19 champions.”**

Cllr Louis Stephen & Tom Piotrowski

Louis said; “When I saw the Hello Neighbour scheme being used in other parts of the country, I could see the potential for getting the idea spread across our community, linking volunteers to people who really needed help with getting through the lockdown safely. A few weeks after we launched Hello Neighbour the county council scheme Here2Help was launched.

Welcome to this electronic version of Battenhall News. We are delivering this by email and facebook to make sure we keep you and our volunteer deliverers safe whilst we are in lock-down. This edition is a bit longer than normal and in colour as we do not have the normal constraints of physical printing – we hope you like it.



BATTENHALL COMMUNITY

HELLO  
NEIGHBOUR !



Many local champions including Caroline Simmonds took responsibility for their road.

## COMMUNITY ACTION

Even as some parts of lockdown are eased, there are still many people who will have to self-isolate.

Can you contribute a few hours to help the Here2Help scheme?

Or do you need help with shopping or picking up prescriptions?

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help>

**HERE 2 HELP**  
**WORCESTERSHIRE**

# BATTENHALL GENEROSITY: WOW!

Many people have seen a drastic loss of income due to the coronavirus outbreak and demand has been extremely high. Inspired by **Steve Goode** and other friends from **Sebright Avenue** many residents have been using the Thursday clap for the NHS as an opportunity to collect food for the local foodbank.

“Thanks to your generosity the foodbank now has a reasonable stock level. When I heard about Steve’s fantastic idea I contacted him to work together to expand the food collection further across Battenhall. I had some leaflets printed and we used the Battenhall Community Facebook page to get the message out. Well done all!” – Cllr Louis Stephen.



Some of the generous food donated

## BE OUR EYES AND EARS



Louis calling local residents

During the Coronavirus pandemic it has not been possible to meet physically residents at the door step or deliver paper copies of our community newsletter so Louis and Tom have been doing the next best thing by calling as many residents as possible on the phone and delivering Battenhall News by email instead of paper.

Tom said, “It’s not as easy or justifiable for us to be out as much as we would like so we are appealing to local people to let us know what issues need dealing with on their street. We normally see things like potholes, blocked drains, street lights that aren’t working as well as litter and fly tipping when we are out and about doing our job as community champions.

So we need you to let us know if you see these sorts of issues. If you let us know of things, please also give us location information (e.g. which house, street light number the issue is near) and it helps if you can send us photos of the problem.”

## DOMESTIC ABUSE

**Domestic abuse or violence is a crime** and should be reported to the police - there are also other organisations who can offer you help and support. Both men and women can be victims of domestic abuse but statistics show clearly that women are more likely to experience abuse.

Call 999 if it’s an emergency or you’re in immediate danger. The police take domestic violence seriously and will be able to help and protect you.

Other organisations who can help:

- West Mercia Women’s Aid – 0800 980 3331
- Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0808 200 0247
- Men’s Advice Line - 0808 801 0327
- Galop (for LGBT+ people) - 0800 999 5428

## YOU SAID / WE DID

Local residents told us about two incidents of burnt-out motorbikes left unsightly in the ward.



Worcestershire Land Cooperative



Diglis Playing Fields

# THANK YOU NHS !!!

**NHS is a fantastic institution and our national treasure.**

Many of our Battenhall residents work for it. Others were perhaps saved by NHS during Covid-19 pandemic. The NHS Heroes deserve our gratitude.

As a sign of our appreciation Tom is asking Worcester City Council to award our two NHS Trusts **Freedom of our City**.

The Freedom of the City is an honour given by a local council to either a person or an organisation, in recognition of their exceptional service to the City. **It's one of our oldest surviving traditional ceremonies in the UK.**



Tom: 'Thank you, Leo and Katrina, for your lovely rainbows of hope. Your artwork is a sign of gratitude to the NHS employees in our ward and beyond'.

**Please say 'Thank you' to our NHS Heroes by signing this petition:**

[Petition: Freedom of the city to NHS Trust](#)

## KEEP IN TOUCH

Lockdown restrictions mean we cannot go about our lives in the way we used to. **As a community we need to come together** to protect physically the most vulnerable but at the same time social isolation and mental health are having a big effect on many people. Ways to keep up to date:

- Join the Battenhall Community Facebook group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1245276105595834/>
- Receive Battenhall News by email. Let Louis know by emailing him here:  
[LouisJosephStephen@gmail.com](mailto:LouisJosephStephen@gmail.com)



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Cllr Louis Stephen viewing the cleaned-up Gatehouse

## BATTENHALL MOUNT LATEST

The building work on the new retirement home being built on the old convent site is now progressing at pace. An update from the developers:

“We have just reopened the **Gatehouse Marketing suite at Mount Battenhall**, and following the government’s guidelines viewings are strictly by appointment only. We are hoping that the 1<sup>st</sup> phase will be completed early next year.

We would like to thank all the local neighbours for their patience and understanding whilst we are working on the site.”

## LET’S TALK ABOUT NORTON PARKWAY

**Meet one of the designers of Worcestershire Parkway.  
You are invited to an online talk about Worcestershire Parkway.  
7:30pm 22<sup>nd</sup> June.**

This session will look at how low carbon transport can enable the UK to achieve its **net zero emissions** target set out in the zero-carbon Britain report. **Jenny Cooke from Network Rail** will use Worcestershire Parkway as a case study to explore possibilities of designing for sustainable and active travel post-COVID-19.

This event has been organised by Green Christians Worcester. To register for your free tickets please click here: [Eventbright booking](#)



Tom Piotrowski welcomes new train station

# PERSONAL STORIES FROM THE CORONAVIRUS LOCK-DOWN

The lockdown is gradually being eased. It's been a tough time for many but for some it's also been a time for reflection, learning and exploration. Louis and Tom reflect on what they have been doing in their free time.

## LOUIS



With a bit more time on my hands I've been doing a lot more gardening and taking the time for many more local walks. It's been an opportunity to learn more about our local wildlife.

It's the second year we have allowed the wildflowers to grow on the triangle of land between **Battenhall Rise** and the **Duck Brook**: no spraying, no planting just letting what was already there grow naturally.



The wildflowers look beautiful and they also provide nectar to sustain butterflies and bees. Wildflower seeds are an important food source for birds.

Here are just some of the wildflowers you can see on our 'new' wildflower meadow:



Birdsfoot trefoil



Cowslip



Cornflower



Black knapweed



Cuckoo flower



Ladies bedstraw

## TOM



During this lockdown, Tom decided to combine his love for cycling with fundraising as one of his favourite charities experienced a big financial pinch. **St. Richard's Hospice** has been hit hard by Covid19 as a large portion of care is funded through personal donations and many fundraising events had to be cancelled during the lockdown.

Tom, who was supposed to visit his mother living in Poland during Easter, decided to make a virtual journey across Europe, covering **1240 miles** and raise money for St. Richard's along the way. The journey has been done symbolically as Tom cycles around Worcester exploring some of its beautiful landscapes.

Please check out the **photo gallery** and consider donating to the care provided by St. Richard's Hospice by following this [link](#).



## CRIME & DISORDER

Covid-19 has brought the best out of many people but the worst in others. Sadly we are picking up a number of issues ranging from cycling on pavements around **Bath Road and London Road**, littering and other antisocial behaviour on the **Battenhall Playing Fields** and criminal damage to the sheds and allotment plots near the Duck Brook.

It's thought that much of the antisocial behaviour is coming from older teenagers. It's entirely possible that they don't even live in Battenhall.

Message from the owner of the vandalised allotment shed:  
"I ask all parents to beware, if their children say they are going down to Battenhall fields on an evening, they could be out destroying other people's hard work."



Vandalised shed at  
Worcestershire  
Community Land  
Cooperative allotments

## AND FINALLY....

Thanks for reading this far. This is the first edition of our new format e-newsletter. We welcome your suggestions and comments for the next edition.

If you enjoyed our newsletter and are reading this from a Facebook post please consider letting us have your email address so that we can send future editions to you directly.

We don't have email addresses for everyone living in Battenhall. Please forward to anyone you know who may be interested.

All the very best

**ClIr Louis Stephen**

**Tom Piotrowski**

**LOUIS & TOM: WORKING WITH PEOPLE AND GETTING THINGS DONE**