

COVID 19 Community Response

You will be well aware of the Government's latest guidelines about COVID-19, the coronavirus.

It means we all have to practice social distancing and that some people within our community are already being asked to self-isolate or will be required to do so in the near future.

Needless to say, we live in a strong, connected and caring community and there is a huge desire to do all we can to help.

A group of people from across the community and involving the Community Company, the Community Hall and the Community Council has got together to monitor the situation and to put in place measures to help people to stay involved and included, whilst we go through these difficult times:

1. If you are a Facebook user, please consider liking the BoG Community Page, this will be a useful platform for ensuring that relevant information is shared, plus it could be great morale booster for those self-isolating. Click on this link to get to the page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/boatofgartencommunitygroup/>
2. A WhatsApp group has been created. Please get in touch with us if you would like to be included - this is going to be a great tool to help us identify which members of the community may need some assistance and for people to offer their services in helping. For instance, could you offer to walk someone's dog, or perhaps help with their shopping? Every small act of kindness will help our community.
3. A special edition of the BoG Standard has been delivered to each house in the community, detailing at least one key point of contact for each area/street. That way everyone should have someone they can contact if they need any assistance.

Things are changing very quickly at the moment and we will continue to adapt and respond as new guidelines or advice is issued. If anyone has any further suggestions of ways in which the community can help, [please let us know](#).

- The community hall is open and will remain so until the Hall Board reach the point where the Hall is advised to close. We have inevitably had many cancellations already and are trying to put in place measures that support the staff to keep the premises safe and the operations ticking over.
- At the Village Shop and Post Office, David and Beth are similarly doing all they can to support the community and help those who cannot or must not come to the shop.
- The church is open daily and Graham Atkinson, the minister, wants people to know that anyone is welcome to use it as a place of reflection or quiet as they wish.
- Using video-calling applications like Facetime, WhatsApp and Skype from your phone or computer allows you to see your friends and family even if they or you can't visit. That can help enormously, so do ask if you'd like help to get that organised.

It's really encouraging to notice that all around the world, communities are pulling together just like we are to ensure that no one needs to feel isolated and lonely.

Look after yourself and your loved ones and keep in touch!

Many thanks and stay safe

Boat of Garten & Vicinity Community Council, Boat of Garten Community Hall and Boat of Garten Community Company.