

We ♥ Londis!

Celebrating our important local asset

I cannot think of any other community that has a grocery, a bakery, a pharmacy and a Post Office to serve them – we are the lucky ones.

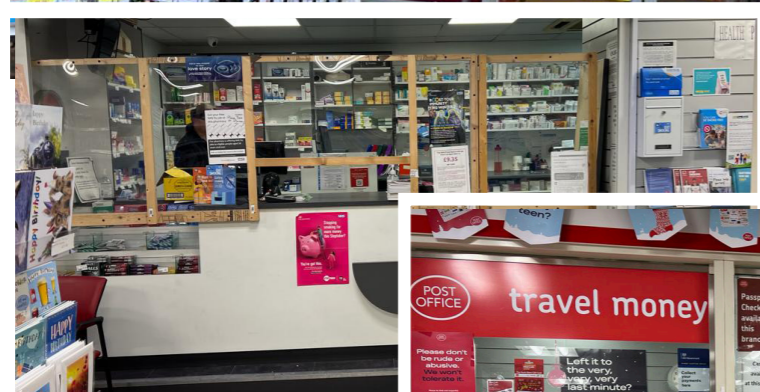
Raj and Krishna have owned Londis for more than 25 years and most of the staff are long serving, are known to many of us and have become friends.

During lockdown, the pharmacy staff delivered hundreds of prescriptions to residents and Londis remained open throughout and saved many of us from despair as we ran out of essentials and could not go to the supermarkets.

When we have events, Krishna always gives us donations and we have a special dispensation to advertise in the shop, which also sells our tickets and programmes.

The pharmacy orders prescriptions, makes them up and will deliver to those who need it. No more phoning the surgery, collecting the prescription and taking it to the pharmacy. It also provides inoculations and private consultations with the pharmacist - no more telling the chemist your symptoms in the hearing of strangers...

I would like to thank the staff, led by Lee, for their contribution not only to the Residents' Association but also the community as



Three-in-one: Londis is a convenience store, Post Office and pharmacy



a whole. We should all support Londis by using its services to safeguard it from the rolling closures of so many other Post Offices and pharmacies so please remember, Londis in Hales Drive is the very centre of our community, and we are very lucky to have it!

'Stop, Hang Up, CALL 159'

At the end of September 2021, we launched 159, a memorable short-code phone service that connects the vast majority of UK banking customers safely and securely with their bank when they receive an unexpected or suspicious call about a financial matter.

This breaks the scam 'journey' at the critical moment when you are at most risk of being manipulated into making a payment. So, even if scammers can make contact with you, that link will be broken by your call to 159, before any information is shared, any payment is made, and any harm is done.



If you think someone is trying to trick you into handing over money or personal details:

Stop, hang up and call 159 to speak directly to your bank. 159 works in the same way as 101 for the police or 111 for the NHS. It's the number you can trust to get you through to your bank, every time.

159 will never call you. Only a fraudster will object to you calling 159.

Who can use 159? The cost of calling 159 will vary according to your phone provider. In many cases this will be the same as a national rate call. Please ask your provider for details.



Website: www.ststephensra.org

ststephensra@gmail.com

APRIL 2023

Dear Residents

May will be a busy month for us with another visit to Wisley, [please email if you would like to join us] the Coronation to be celebrated and local government elections to be held. Like most of you, I hear many, many people bemoaning the actions and plans of politicians both local and national but we all have the opportunity to vote, and I hope that St Stephen's will register a good turnout this time. We will be holding hustings in April where everyone is welcome, and you can listen to and ask questions of candidates.

This election will mark the end of long and illustrious service by our lovely local councillor, Terry Westgate. He has been an example of what a good councillor should be, always ready to tackle graffiti, litter pick, make grants to local groups, attend meetings, listen to concerns and complaints [and do something about the latter] and always cheer-

ful and positive. We have indeed been fortunate to have him. Thank you, Terry, for everything you have done for St Stephen's.

We have decided to add another bench to St Stephen's Fields and it will have a plaque commemorating the coronation so I hope that you will approve of this use of your subscriptions. On that note, they are due in April and a membership form will be included with this newsletter.

Finally, a special thank you to all the members who litter pick in the roads around St Stephen's. They are tireless in their efforts to keep the area clean and are another group of unsung heroes.

With best wishes

Pauline



St Stephen's Church Hall MONDAY 8 MAY between 2.00 and 5.00 pm

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

This is a joint venture with St Michael's Road Area Residents' Association, the Women's Institute, the League of Friends of Kent and Canterbury Hospital, St Stephen's Church and our own Residents' Association, just as it was for the Platinum Jubilee.

Because this is too early in the year to guarantee good weather, we are having a tea and cake afternoon in the church hall with plants, toys, bric-a-brac and paperback stalls. We would be delighted to receive your donations to any or all for these on Sunday evening between 7 and 8 pm or on Monday morning.

There will be a Royal Exhibition, thanks to Angela, of previous coronations and the life of the king and we are offering 45-minute tours of the church at 11am and 2pm that must be booked by contacting us at ststephensra@gmail.com, and a

PROGRAMME

Tea and refreshments in the church hall from 2pm-5pm.

Stalls for paperbacks, bricabrac, toys and plants in the hall.

Live music throughout the afternoon, 2-5pm

Exhibition in the church hall.

The almhouses' residents are happy to welcome visitors from 2-5pm.

Church tours 11am and 2pm

Churchyard tour and talk 4pm

Morris Men at 3pm

churchyard tour and talk. The almhouses garden will be open to visitors and many of you will be seeing the new almhouses for the first time. Morris Dancers will be entertaining us with a traditional dance.

We are offering a prize to the best dressed adult and the best dressed child. You can interpret that however you wish, be it dressing up, a very special outfit or a red, white and blue ensemble. Just go to the hall, have your photo taken and leave a contact address. Winners will be announced in the following week.

We hope to see many of you on May 8th and to make this another community event that children and adults will remember, just as some of us remember the last coronation!

