



South Kilworth News Rebooted

Community News for the village of South Kilworth

First Edition November 2020



Angela, Toni and Julie

Meet the editorial team

Angela Langman

Having lived in South Kilworth for 12 years with my husband Michael, 8-year-old Harriet and our two cats, I say this will definitely be our forever home. There is nothing better than waking up to the sound of nature and a south facing garden that backs onto rolling fields as far as the eye can see. We love the close-knit community where everyone looks out for each other and where you can feel safe in your bed at night. I keep myself busy with an allotment plot and my hobbies that include gardening, DIY and making greeting cards, which I sell to friends and family. I hope to eventually sell them at local craft markets and the local community when viruses finally allow us more freedom.

Julie Andrews aka Jules

I've been living in the village since 2003 and usually deliver the SK News to people living on Welford Road. It's been good to reboot the magazine after the short break since Ann Saunders sadly passed away (more news about Ann later in this edition). I'll be sharing the fun and frustrations of putting together bi-monthly editions of SK news with my lovely neighbours.

I love the social/community spirit of the village and I've enjoyed the quizzes (Bob And Tina Morley) at the Village Hall and other Kork events within the village (Christmas dinners at the Attic) and out at places like Harrington for Gin Tasting (yum).

I'm keen on keeping the village clean, keeping our countryside walks tidy and accessible, so every so often I'll be organising a litter pick, a walk to cut back the hedges so we can walk safely through fields and over styes without being stung or scratched!

Toni Snell

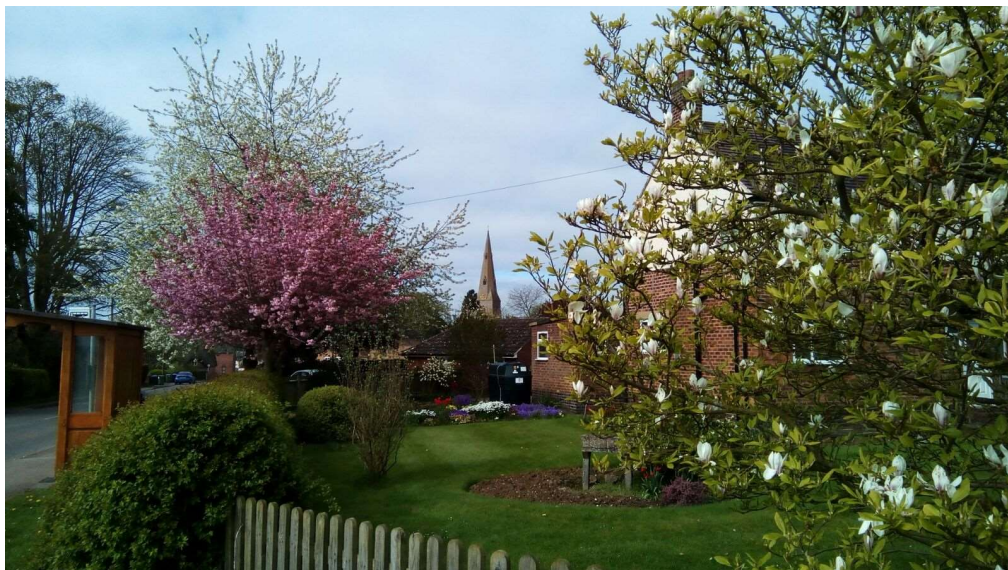
Born with British ancestry and schooled in Durban, South Africa, I graduated from the University of Natal and BSN International University with my Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) and Master of Business Administration degrees. I am married to Rob and we relocated to the UK in 2016, when I was transferred by my company to the UK. Our choice of home was serendipitous and we have happily been residents in South Kilworth since we arrived in the UK. We love the community here in South Kilworth and immediately felt at home. My hobbies include a modest patch in the village allotment, jam and preserve making, and a burgeoning interest in genealogy.

What we will feature

With each issue, we will be aiming to bring you regular news from:

- Stanford reservoir
- Korks' activities
- Wasosks' (Whisky Appreciation Society of South Kilworth) activities
- Village Hall news
- Parish Council minutes and news
- Ask the Parish Councillors – a new Q&A feature for villagers
- Did you know? – a new fun segment for you to get involved with (please send your ideas/snippets)
- Church news
- South Kilworth School and FOSKS' (Friends of South Kilworth School) news
- Tales from the White Hart – pool team news, etc...
- Allotments
- Guest page - this is where you get the chance to share something that you're passionate about, or share something interesting...

Contact the news team: sknewsrebooted@gmail.com



News from Stanford Reservoir

A Rare Visitor in May and July

A 52-year wait ended on 31st May 2020. I decided to check the Leicestershire side of the reservoir early on the 31st – this proved to be a good decision. On the previous day, there had been a Black Tern at Eyebrook Reservoir near Uppingham and the weather conditions looked favourable for this species at Stanford so I set off with this species in mind.

Nearing the inflow car park, my attention was drawn to a very large tern with what appeared to be a large bill. It was the briefest of views with the naked eye so I speeded up my walk to enable me to get towards the car park so I could look back up the reservoir. I picked the bird up immediately and my suspicions were confirmed – it was a gull size tern, much larger than the Common Terns that are regular visitors and it had a huge red coloured bill. I muttered to myself (along with a few expletives) “CASPIAN TERN”!

The bird was heading straight towards me so the choice was to try to get the scope on it or get some images on the bridge camera. Knowing how rare these birds are in the county and in Britain I opted for the bridge camera images. The bird continued to head towards me in an easterly direction and then continued its journey exiting the reservoir at the inflow. I stood in disbelief for a few seconds – then checked the camera to see if the images were OK. Thankfully they were.

To put this into perspective, there are only around 5 Caspian Tern records every year in the whole of Britain (some years there are none). They are notoriously difficult to catch up with given the long distances they cover, often only stopping off at places such as Stanford for a very short period. In fact, there was a report later in the day from Hampshire which was almost certainly the same bird.

52 years ago, Robert Ratcliffe saw a Caspian Tern at Stanford Reservoir – the one and only record until now. The May 2020 Caspian Tern was the 8th record for Leicestershire and Rutland the 6th for Northants.





Can lightning strike twice?

Fast forward to the 26th July. I was casually chatting to 3 members of the ringing group at "the point" when a bird appeared and quickly disappeared behind the trees. I immediately shouted "Caspian Tern" – everyone turned around to see the bird heading down the reservoir in the same direction as the one in May. Interestingly there had been a Caspian Tern at Framp-ton Marsh in Lincolnshire which may have been the same bird as one at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire a few days later. Draw a line between these two locations (effectively the Wash and the Severn Estuary) and Stanford Res sits on it. This is a well-known "flyway" and adds credence to the bird in July being the same bird as the one in May, following the same flyway as it moved around the UK. This bird was re-found around 2 hours later at another location in Northamptonshire.

I will write a full update for 2020 in a later edition of the SK News.

Chris Hubbard
c.hubbard2@icloud.com

South Kilworth Allotments

COVID CARROTS & PANDEMIC POTATOES

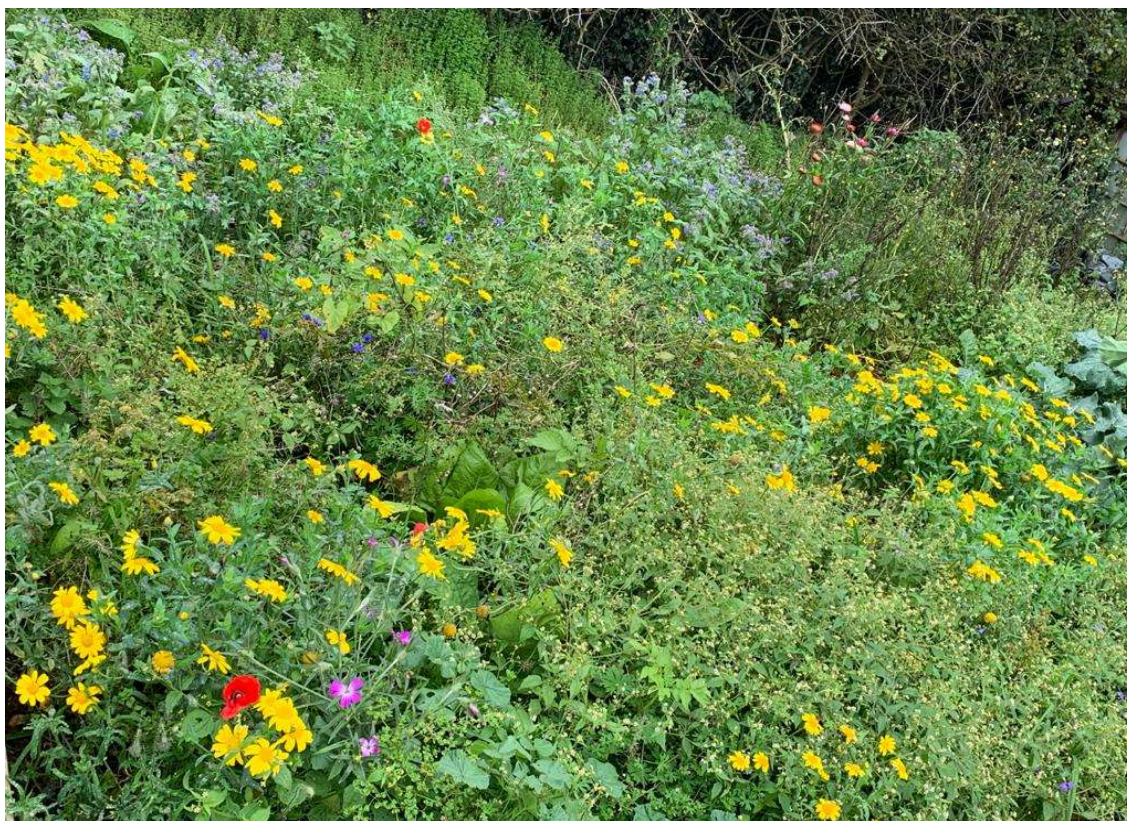
March & April are the busiest times at the allotments... so the silver lining of the Covid cloud was... that the current 8 allotments have never seen so much activity. Armed with permission from Boris, we all headed for the sanctuary and fresh air of the Rugby Road allotments.



Growing vegetables & fruits such as potatoes, leeks, squash, onions, beetroots, courgettes, pumpkins, raspberries, gooseberries along with red/blackcurrants and various salad staples, meant that we had a plentiful supply which we shared amongst each 'Allotmenter'



We even had time to clear a 'dumping ground' where Sarah planted a meadow area which has attracted a wealth of new wildlife visitors. With winter fast approaching, it is time to clear the ground to prepare the beds ready for the cold conditions.



There is a small waiting list for an allotment, but if anyone is interested in having one in 2021 please call or WhatsApp Richard Speake on 07711 825650

Ann Saunders



Live for the day!

When we read newspapers and magazines, whatever their standing, we often give little thought to the stressed, hard-working, and often anonymous back-room people, serving up the latest news. In a village setting like ours, it is more personal. Even so, not knowing the reason, some may have been puzzled by the abrupt interruption of the regular delivery of the South Kilworth News.

The sad truth is that Ann Saunders, the editor of our South Kilworth News for well over a decade, passed on suddenly at the age of 60 in March of this year due to breast cancer.

When we chatted with her husband, Graham Clarkson, about her, he spoke glowingly of their life together and of Ann's community-mindedness, dedication, and commitment to contributing to the cohesiveness of our village in ways that cannot be measured. We think that the South Kilworth News has been a formidable contribution.

So back to an earlier time: Ann was a Quantity Surveyor, having obtained a degree at Trent University. She and Graham moved into the village 22 years ago. Their son Ben was born a year later. Ann worked from home, juggling the responsibilities of being a Mum and a Professional. In recent years, Ann was deeply involved in the building of Magna Park from its inception. This included being responsible for cost plans and acting as a quantity surveyor and employers' agent for most of the buildings and infrastructure visible today. This is a legacy to be proud of.

Ann was not one to shy away from a challenge. A few years ago, she and some friends decided to cycle the RAGBRAI, a non-competitive bicycle ride going across the state of Iowa, USA, from west to east, taking 1 week. What a sense of adventure! It was at the end of this trip and in Chicago, that Ann said YES to Graham's proposal of marriage. They were married in 2017.

Closer to home, Ann was part of the Friday Book Club in the village... or as Graham described it... the cheese, wine, and giggle club! He is convinced that they did read at least one book! Despite Graham's teasing, Ann was an avid reader! A second book club was spawned and Ann was also a member of this club. In May 2017, at Ann's instigation, members of the book club attended the Hay Festival of Literature & Arts, an annual literature festival held in Wales for ten days, an event that lives on in the precious memories of all that attended with her. Ann was also a theatre lover, whether it be a professional production or an amateur skit. She is fondly remembered for helping at a local Pantomime in typical Ann fashion - doing whatever needed to be done – costumes, makeup and supervising the children.

Ann had a large circle of friends, both in the village and going back to her school days. A great joy for her was spending time with locals, many of whom have commented on the love and support they have received from Ann over the years. Her thoughtfulness, selfless caring and sense of fun defined her.

Ann, a special woman who lives on in the hearts of many. Indeed, a woman who lived for the day.

Graham will be organising a memorial service as soon as social distancing rules permit.

Toni Snell





(Where you get to share your passions or tell us a bit about your business)

Health, Fitness and Wellbeing

Having turned to a whole-food, plant-based diet almost five years ago, I am always trying new recipes, and I am happy to share a few that I have tried, tasted, and enjoyed. This interest has developed to the extent that I am now studying Nutrition for Weight Management and Athletic performance – mainly to help with my own goals, but with a view to helping others who want to improve their health and wellbeing too.

Following a successful hip operation in 2019, I set myself a goal of completing an Ironman triathlon. I spend a great deal of time swimming, biking, and running in preparation for this. Having caught the bug for distance running in my 40's (I used to sprint the 100m for Rugby and Northampton Vets – so anything over 200m was an endurance event for me) I have completed various 10K runs, half and full marathons.

I have just entered my 50th year so set myself various goals - some of my sporting ones are to set Personal Bests at 5k, 10k, half and full marathon, as well as to complete a half and full Ironman triathlon. All races are booked, so providing the events go ahead in 2021, I will tick all of these off the list!

I believe that training the mind is as important as training the body and I have a daily routine of journaling and meditation. I am currently finding *Headspace* a great app for meditation - just 10 minutes each morning sets my day off on the right track.

Michael Langman



Keeping South Kilworth Clean

November Litter-pick

It is that time again... the hedgerows are full of face masks and bacterial wipes along with the usual empty cans and bottles and the general rubbish that passers-by chuck out of their car windows.

The litter pick is scheduled for Saturday, November 28th starting at 10:30 from the Village Hall. We are hoping that Harborough Council will supply us with bin bags again, but we will need to use our own gloves. We will split into groups as before, and obviously, adhere to social distancing!

The Village Hall Committee had agreed to open at 12:30 pm to let us gather afterward to warm up with coffee and cake but sadly the lockdown has quashed that plan.

If you would like to join us for the litter-pick, please let us know via the email below. We will also be sending an email out via the village email system to all households. If you are not already on the list and want to be added, contact Tina Morley.

See you on the 28th November at 10.30 am @ The Village Hall



Email: sknewsrebooted@gmail.com

Jules & Angela

Meet the Parish Councillors for South Kilworth

Cllr Phil Alcock - Chairman Cllr Kevin Coyne - Vice Chairman
Cllr Tim Wood Cllr Gerry Byrne Cllr Mark Darnell
Karen Brown - Clerk



The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:15pm at South Kilworth Village Hall. Whilst the current restrictions are in place the meetings are being held 'virtually' using Video conferencing.

All parishioners are invited to attend – either by joining the video conference or, once we can revert to meeting at the village hall, in person. Alternatively, you can now use the new SK News page:

Ask the Parish Council

Just drop us an email with your burning question for one of the councillors - especially something useful to the whole village, and we will print the question and the answer anonymously or, with your name, if preferred. Email to southkilworthpc@hotmail.co.uk

Councillors meet to discuss reports from County and District, current or ongoing planning matters for the village, business matters for the village, correspondence with Neighbourhood Plan Consultations, accounts, and other village business such as allotments, highways, footpaths, parks and recreation, dog fouling, street lights and general village improvements.

KORKS (Ladies only)

The first meeting of the SK Ladies was on Wednesday 15th June 2011 - hosted by Eileen Burd at her house.

There were 45 ladies at our first meeting! We discussed ideas for our name and then voted on our favourite...We had lots of options to choose from e.g. Kilworth Kinks, Kilworth Kurves, Kilworth Kups, Kilworth Koots, and South Kilworth Sisters....but Kilworth Korks received the most votes and so we were born!

Eileen offered to be the Chairperson and I was happy to support her as Secretary. It was agreed that events would be suggested, and each year new event would be organised by a volunteer from within Korks.

Over the years Kork members have organised and enjoyed a hugely diverse number of great evenings. Here are just a few of the wonderful events we've enjoyed over the last nine years.....

Supper Clubs
The Escape Room
Bingo
Christmas Meals
Theatre Trips
Flower Arranging
Flower Reading
Pub Games
Leicestershire Food Evening

Gin Tasting
Cocktail Making
Bowls
Pub Walks
Chocolate Making Demo
Pamper Night
Guided Bird Walk
Champagne & Canapes
Greyhound Racing

Clay pigeon Shooting
Rounders and picnic
Line Dancing
Cheese & wine evening
Village safari
Treasure hunt & BBQ
Long Alley Skittles

It will be our tenth anniversary in June 2021 so let's hope we can plan something special after the difficulties we have all experienced getting together this year.

Claire Hubbard



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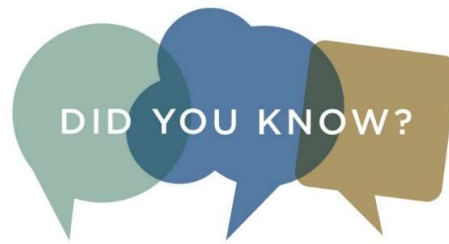
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1. That the Red Arrows (formed in 1964) typically has 9 planes in formation in displays?



2. That the collective noun for a group of meerkats is a 'mob'?



3. That a Zorilla (an African polecat) is the world's smelliest animal? Well, the fluid from its anal gland is.



4. That the Wombat is the only animal that does square poop?



5. That Roald Dahl was a World War 2 Fighter Pilot?



6. That Bob Dylan was born Robert Allen Zimmerman?



Update on Neighbourhood Plan Groups

Following the Open meeting at the end of last year, various people offered to set up working groups to look at some of the community proposals in our Neighbourhood Plan. The overall responsibility for the plan lies with the Parish Council, but I have been helping to get things moving.

So far various groups have met, and we are pleased to report some progress- despite the challenges due to Covid-19- especially as it has delayed any action by local councils

The groups that are presently meeting are ...

Improve parking at the school

The group has held 3 meetings with the school and local residents and a variety of proposals have been explored:

- Pursuing planning permission to get the layby near the school developed and tarmacked to provide extra “drop off” parking at busy times
- The footpath has been upgraded from the Village Hall via the church to the school, with new tarmac, and removal of the gate near the church
- Clearing of weeds along this pathway is planned for late December
- The Village Hall car park can now be used as a drop off /and walk to school.

For further details contact the School or Tina Morley

Improving the facilities at the allotments

- There are plans to get a water supply onto the allotment site

For further details contact Richard Speake or the Allotment Committee

Supporting frail and/or elderly people

A group met in January (Tina Morley/ Liz Saunders /Emma Vincent / Kevin and Joyce Hill/Joy Elton /Rita Hallam/Robert Snell) and agreed on various proposals:

- An audit of older people in the village showed there was little need to resurrect the old luncheon club (which had been suggested). An article/request in SK News confirmed this
- A monthly community pop-up café was proposed- aimed at villagers of all ages who are isolated or lonely (older people would be offered transport)
- The first café was planned for April 2020- but due to the Covid-19 is now on hold - but will go ahead in 2021
- The group now links to the Covid-19 and Kilworth support groups
- A set of information about the village has been drafted to include groups and

activities/contact lists etc. This will now go regularly into SK News and be included in the village website (which the Parish Council are upgrading)

For further details contact Tina Morley

Improving footpaths & dog walking paths

- Circular walks have been identified from the village and we are working with landowners to see if permissive pathways could be developed (on hold due to Covid)
- We reviewed potential areas for a dog walking & exercise area. It was suggested that we use the overflow car park at the village hall. Changes are needed to make it secure, with a trial to see if it works

For further details contact Beccy Atkins

Improving children playground

For further details contact the Parish Council (Tim Wood) or FOSKS, who have offered to help

Helping the Parochial Church Council (PCC) make better use of the church

For further details contact PCC

Helping the Village Hall Committee run the village hall and its facilities

- A refurbishment of the hall is underway for 2019- 21
- An ACRE grant has been secured of £20,000 to help

For further details contact Mark Tottman

Improving the Local Environment

- A SHIRE grant has been submitted to Leicestershire County Council (LCC) for bird boxes in gardens across the village, and we expect to hear the outcome in November

For further details contact Bob Morley

Supporting small businesses AND Reviewing our open spaces/village green

These groups have yet to meet – does anyone want to help either of these get going? (We do have a few people willing to help)

Contact Tina Morley

Funding

Due to the new housing development in the village, there is an allocation of money from Harborough District Council (Section 106 funding secured by a levy from the builders). This is available for the above projects via a bidding process.

We are always looking for more help from enthusiastic Villagers - please email me if you can help via tina.morley@virgin.net

The White Hart



Haven't the recent times thrown a whole new perspective on life and drawn in to question how relevant and relative things are to us? I wonder how the current pandemic will affect our long-term behaviour, culture and heritage?

On travels overseas some time back, my children inveigled me to take them to a 'Historical Village' featuring a fenced settlement of that country from the period 1840-1880. It charged an entrance fee - the equivalent of £15. I commented wryly that my office building in Durban, South Africa, was a construction from the same period that required no entrance fee.

The reality is that here in the UK, these 'historical' structures could almost be viewed as 'new' builds. In the UK, one can walk into any one of a thousand pubs with centuries of history for the admission price of a pint of beer!

Speaking of pubs, it is remarkable just how much a part of the culture and heritage this institution has been in the UK. I am sure that most locals know that the evolution of the Public House can be traced from the Roman *taberna* of the 1st Century AD, through to the Anglo-Saxon Alehouses, the Inns that followed and from the 19th century, the pubs as we know them today. These convivial locations have provided the social centre and very often, the focus of community life in villages, towns and cities throughout the UK.

That brings me onto 'our' village pub, The White Hart, and the stout-hearted landlords and ladies who have served the village for over 200 years from its counters. The latest of these is the fresh-faced, Daniel Rutterford.

Born in 1989 in the fenland village of Littleport, Daniel went to the local school, finishing at Ely City College, where he obtained his GCSE's.

Dan's interest in the hospitality business was nurtured from a young age as he shadowed his father, Andy, at the Littleport Leisure Centre, where his Dad was the manager. His part-time jobs as a snack-bar assistant, receptionist and kitchen helper progressed over the ensuing years to more substantial responsibilities as a cook, barman and Duty Manager.

After leaving school, an opportunity at Tesco's saw Dan progress from General Assistant to qualifying as a skilled baker and then bakery Team leader in the space of only two years. By the age of 21, he had been promoted to Bakery Manager. With hard work and continued application, he was appointed the Better Service Senior Manager at the Ely branch of Tesco's.

Throughout his opportunity at Tesco's, Dan maintained his ties to the Littleport Leisure Centre, and using his accumulating skills, he helped with major functions and events as well as being elected Chairman of the Committee.

Dan's burgeoning interest in the wider aspects of the hospitality industry saw him deciding to give the pub trade a go. He signed on with Greene King as a Trainee Pub Manager, where he learned the trade, passed the associated exams and was rewarded by gaining his own personal licence. Owning a pub then became his dream.

A happy coincidence of his Dad's early retirement and shared dream and his mum, Jill's, endorsement (they were going to assist Dan in the running of the pub), saw them set about trying to find their ideal pub location. This quest saw them examining 50 pubs and personally visiting 19 of the shortlisted ones.

So it was that they came upon The White Hart. After only two visits to the village and pub, Dan decided that this was the place for him and his parents. Dan says he was very fortunate that his parents loaned him the money to purchase the lease and the deal was struck for April 2017.

3½ years later now, the family has grown to love the village they have made their home. They have met many people and made firm friends. Dan is acutely aware that he is the custodian of a community asset and a listed property with a rich heritage that he is building on.

He is exceptionally grateful for the amount of support that he has been given, not least of which has been the generosity of the village over the past 8 months, which together with the Government Grants, has allowed them to keep their heads above water. Their resilience, together with the community they serve, will certainly be tested with the newest lock-down.

Robert Snell



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