

Easing lockdown in June

By now different rules were operating in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the old certainties of nationwide lockdown were replaced by appeals to use common sense and be vigilant – which people chose to interpret differently. But slowly, life regained its normal rhythm, albeit with social distancing restrictions still in place.

Primary School

On 1 June the Primary School opened more widely to pupils in years F1, Year 1 and Year 6, in addition to the key workers' children. Classrooms were rearranged to allow for appropriate social distancing between children; and the playground was reorganised for groups of children to play during break times, still allowing for safe social distancing. Groups of children in their hubs and bubbles had PE sessions using their own equipment which was labelled and cleaned each day. For those children still at home for the rest of the summer term, staff kept in contact through the Home Learning system.

Nursery/PFSU

Both settings reopened at the start of June for a limited number of children with the appropriate hygiene and social distancing measures in place. During lockdown staff had kept in touch with many families via the Tapestry online system.

Church

Opened for social distancing private prayer from 15 June, but not for services which were streamed as usual. Access was allowed to the nave only and the toilets were not available. Worshippers asked not to touch anything in the church except to light a votive candle.

Farmers' Market

Reopened on 27 June in the school playground, 9–11am: click and collect pre-orders only, no browsing; shoppers limited to two people; a one-way system operated, with 2m marking – in through small gate and out through the car park; the event was stewarded, with an info desk at the entrance; all surfaces and railings were disinfected after the market.



Welcoming Committee (l) and Hooky (r)

Fire Station

The Fire Station practised socially distanced clapping for the final Thursday key worker 8pm clap, even though they were probably only heard by residents of Deddington Grange. Tuesday drill nights and organised training were expected to resume, with evening power point training becoming a distant memory.

The **Antiques Centre** opened on 15 June for a 2-week closing down sale, and the **Red Lion** reopened for a take-away service of fish'n'chips and vegan dishes.

Transport

Face masks and social distancing were required for passengers on public transport from 15 June, affecting Stagecoach buses and Chiltern Railways. Most people complied, £100 fines could be levied but enforcement was light touch. The S4 still ran a temporary hour and a half service. There was a plastic screen by the driver who could choose to wear a face mask

Concessionary bus passes reverted to their normal hours of operation.

Non-essential businesses: Nellie & Dove dress shop and Wychwood Art Gallery in the Town Hall reopened, and Cedar Therapy and hairdressers worked towards reopening on 4 July.

Leisure

There were unhappy reports of fires, barbecues and piles of rubbish left by people on the Castle Grounds; and a rave and children on the play areas at the Windmill Park (see the June Facebook postings). For many people, particular the young (and the not so young) and bored, the pandemic was over and the virus had gone away. Being in the middle of rural England we were spared the unbelievable mass gatherings on coastal beaches.

The idea of allowing pubs and cafes to have seats and tables out on the tarmacked area of the Market Place was mooted, and the parish was asked for its opinion.

Recycling Centres

From the beginning of June, all seven of Oxfordshire's household waste recycling centres went back to full opening hours, 8am–5pm, seven days a week.

The Windmill

Doubles tennis among members of different households was now allowed. Court bookings and a coded padlock system were in place; the clubhouse and toilet facilities in the Windmill Centre were still closed. Players were asked to bring and wear disposable gloves when opening and closing the gate.

The **cricket nets** reopened under ECG guidelines, field play is unlikely this season

The children's **play areas** prepared to reopen on 4 July and were expected to be busy with many children still off school and families expected to have staycation holidays in 2020.