West Moors:	*Together!*
Bulletin No. 69	**Monday 13th December 2021**

Summary of newsy items from past 4 weeks (to Sunday 12th December 2021: next issue in *four* weeks time – to Sunday 9th January 2022.)

- Due to the arrival of the 'Omicron' variant of the Coronavirus infection early in this summary period (first detected in South Africa, but probably more widespread than that statement implies), the government indicated, via a prime-ministerial statement on Saturday 27th November that from Tuesday 30th face masks will be required in retail premises and on public transport (rather than on a voluntary basis) & school-children Year 7 and upwards will also be required to wear face-covering within communal areas.
- Further changes to regulations/guidance following rapid rise in Omicron/Coronavirus wave:
  From Friday 10th December, 2021, face coverings will be mandatory for most indoor public venues including places of worship, theatres and cinemas, as well as the already promulgated requirement in shops/retail outlets and on public transport. Masks are NOT needed in hospitality settings.
  From Monday 13th December, people should work from home "if they can".
  From Wednesday 15th, people will need an NHS Covid Pass, or a negative lateral flow test - to gain entry to a range of venues, including nightclubs and other entertainment venues.
  The 'booster' (or third dose) vaccination programme is to be expanded and accelerated.
- Despite all the gathering gloom, the usual Christmas events locally have gone ahead … Carols on the Petwyn, Christmas Tree Festival and of course shopping!

- The cases generally have been rising to an alarming level: the highest level since January. However, hospitalisations are roughly a fifth of those at the same time: a difficult conundrum for the authorities to plan for … how many restrictions do you put in place?

[***** These 'diary' entries are now issued every 4 weeks as there is little real change 'on the ground' within West Moors specifically (other than infection rate changes etc.). *****]

Visit: westmoors-tc.gov.uk/ and select "Covid-19"