



Keeping Calm and Carrying on (at a social distance)

Covid 19 is having a devastating impact on businesses across our county but we are hearing from many determined to continue as best they can using superfast broadband to support the continuation of business to their customers.

Gift and Stitch Aspatria



Dawn Richardson, of Gift and Stitch Aspatria, closed the doors to her high street shop as a result of the lock down criteria set by the Government but has established a strong online sales system which is working for her, her family and her customers.

Dawn said: 'Although our website doesn't currently support a payment system, I am fulfilling the online orders I receive via email, social media or phone by requesting a bank transfer of payment, checking payment has arrived via internet banking and then packaging up orders ready to post. Although it's not a perfect solution it is enabling me to maintain a service to my customers and a rotation of stock. The downside is that my house has turned in to a store cupboard.'

Gift and Stitches goods such as gifts, balloons, printed and embroidered clothing can be ordered via their Facebook page, search [@GiftandStitchAspatria](#)

The Pot Place Garden Centre, Plumpton



Over in Plumpton, The Pot Place has established a local delivery service and are currently building an online shop and ordering system for their website which they aim to have live this month. Owners Kevin Roper and Paul Thomas, said: 'We are now in our busiest time of year on the gardening side of the business. As spring comes around people start to focus on getting their gardens in order and demand since we established our local delivery service has been high.'

“Many of our clients come back to us time and time again and we do not want to let them down. The online sales facility will be a great bonus to our business and will keep us ticking over until normality resumes’.

Visit The Pot Place website www.thepotplace.co.uk ; with direct access to their shop at www.thepotplace.co.uk/shop and follow them on facebook by searching [The Pot Place Garden Centre](#).

Blencogo Farm



In the village of Blencogo, Kim Inglis, who is spending lock down on her Alpaca farm, supports the comments of other businesses. She said: “Online sales have never been more important. We are now selling our alpaca wool products worldwide. This is a huge thing for us and something which we want to maintain as best we can.”

Alongside the sales side of the business, Kim continues to update her social media platforms with news of the alpacas. She added: ‘There is so much sadness and uncertainty at the moment; the alpacas give us some light relief and we want to share that with others. Many people who have visited us in the past enjoy keeping up to date with news of their favourite alpaca and learning more about the day to day running of the farm. It’s brilliant that having superfast broadband enables us to keep engaging with our customers and we look forward to welcoming them back in person in the future.’

For more information on Blencogo Farm or to view their lovely products visit their website <http://www.blencogofarm.com/> Facebook page [@blencogofarm](#) and Etsy shop at <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/BlencogoFarmAlpacas>

Friars, Keswick



In Keswick, Friars chocolate shop has only recently re-opened to online sales. Director Michael Webster said: “We decided to take some time out to ensure we had all the right measures in place to operate online safely and I’m happy to report that online business is going well. The wellbeing of our staff and our customers has and always will be our priority so it was worth pressing pause for a short time”. When we talked to Michael he had just come off a video call to review marketing material with people located at three separate sites. Michael said: ‘Superfast broadband makes these types

of calls possible and supports us to keep working and interacting even though we can't meet in person. I'm grateful we can rely on technology when everything else is so uncertain."

In addition to the usual treats the shop has to offer, there is also a discount on Easter chocolates which were unable to be sold when the shop was closed. Take a look at Friars' website www.friars.co.uk and follow them on facebook [@Friars.co.uk](https://www.facebook.com/Friars.co.uk) to find out more.

Krystal Kleen Cleaning and Gardening services



Carlisle based Krystal Kleen Cleaning and Gardening services, is still carrying out end of tenancy house cleans and gardening work where it is safe to do so in line with all government guidance on social distancing.

A recent job which was managed via email in terms of communication and invoicing with payment made electronically. Owner Melissa explained: 'The work itself was carried out in isolation with no customer contact while our superfast broadband let us manage every other aspect from the initial communication through to the payment online.'

Since restrictions have come into place, Melissa has been focussing some of her time on developing their business website and conducting an online blog with tips and recommendations for people self-isolating.

Find out more at www.krystalkleencleaningservices.co.uk or visit Krystal Kleen Cleaning and Gardening services on their facebook page [@krystalkleen16](https://www.facebook.com/krystalkleen16)

We wish all businesses across our county the very best in these unprecedented times.