8) D) 5 5 **Newsletter 91** Tide Mill President: USEI

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Honorary

Nigel Barratt

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TENGL

December 2020 **Patrons of the Tide Mill:** Lord & Lady

Framlingham

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MIKE WHITBY (SEE PAGE 3)

Features This Month: Mike Whitby's Photography Puzzle Page for Fun [?] There is a Tide in the Affairs of a Mill Engineering and Milling Round-Up Old Mill – New Clicks... **Online Shopping...**

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EDITORIAL

As a perfect Editor, in a perfect world, one should be forever in possession of a whole host of subjects that one is desparate to put before one's reader in the Editorial column, especially when the publication is an infrequent one, as this has now become before I go on with the editorial, I would like to say, right now, that it was something of a relief when it was put to me that the newsletter may perhaps serve Woodbridge Tide Mill better if it were to be published three times a year. instead of monthly, as it had been hitherto. Not that I do not enjoy editing the newsletter, but this year, with the lockdown and all, it had become increasingly difficult to fill the newsletter with anything but 'fillers', which can become tedious to the reader – maybe even to both readers], but neither the world nor the Editor are perfect, so I have nothing to say, except eappy ceristmas everyone:

And thanks for your support.

(Oh, and lots to get in, so sorry for slightly smaller font in places, but it is assumed both the readers will be using a screen, so may enlarge it.)

STUCK FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS? Just in time for Christmas the <u>@TideMill Museum</u> online shop is open for business. Visit

https://buff.ly/2GWGjss to browse, select and order from over 20 tasteful and bespoke items that evoke your favourite tide mill.

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

With Christmas and the end of 2020 at hand it is a good time to look back at what we have achieved in the year.

Covid-19 and the two lockdowns have halted the many events we had planned to celebrate the 850th anniversary of the first record of a mill on our site. We also wanted to pay tribute to Mrs Jean Gardner, the person who bought the derelict Mill over 50 years ago and created the possibility of restoring it. We will celebrate when it is safe to do so.

Faced with the effects of the pandemic we have been inventive to keep the Mill working, safely welcome visitors (albeit in limited numbers) and continuing to share the Mill with schools with great new online content. All this has been down to the amazing ingenuity and effort of a small team of staff and volunteers at the Mill. Sadly we have not been able to involve many of our stalwart volunteers as the risk factors have prevented many from attending the Mill at all. We have tried to keep them in touch and thank them for their patience.

We did not open for the season in March as lockdown approached. Reopening came in two phases. First, milling started again in mid May in a tightly-controlled environment. Since then sales have been good and the small group involved led by Ian Gray and Dan Tarrant-Willis has got through almost 6 tonnes of grain. Second, at the beginning of July we opened to visitors in small, pre-booked groups on Saturdays and Sundays. Numbers are, of course, far lower than last year but feedback suggests the 'private view' that Dan Tarrant-Willis gives to visitors is really appreciated. Whilst milling has continued we closed the Mill to visitors again from 5 November.

With schools closed and then restricted in what they could do, a group led by Fraser Hale gained a grant from Historic England to put our learning materials online. Do take a look at this wonderful work crafted by Simon Ballard with Fraser's and Heather Sheehan's input, it's on the Mill's website under the Learning Resources tab.

With income down substantially, our latest initiative is an online shop to enable those unable to visit the Mill to buy gifts featuring the Mill by local artists. We have an excellent range of quality gifts so do look at the e-shop, it's on our website and we'll send out purchases in eco-friendly recycled packaging.

Despite all the disruption we did manage a major external redecoration of the Mill in May/June. It looks wonderful.

May I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and healthy New Year.

Stay Safe

John Carrington Chair Woodbridge Tide Mill Charity Trustees

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ESSAY OF MIKE WHITBY'S PHOTOGRAPHIC WORK

If you read the Woodbridge Tide Mill newsletter, even occassionally, you cannot have escaped the photographic work of Mike Whitby. Mike is not a 'photographer' but an accountant, but it is evident from his pictures that Mike sees things that most of us only see after he has used his camera – and, sometimes, tweaked the image (he is not Photoshop averse).

Here are a few images from that camera, mostly of our Tide Mill, but with a few others to prove that Mike is far from narrow-minded.

See page 5 for some notes about Mike.



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December 2020

JUST TRY THEM OUT FOR FUN

RIZZO BERLICE





ACROSS

- Heavy responsibilities found at WTM (10) 1
- 6 What 1A do (4)
- 10
- Roof projection for loading (5) Vital volunteers (NB All are equal, but some 11 more equal) (9) Secret hoarding of stock (8) State of a bonfire, pre-ignition (5)

- How organisms relate, and what it (7)
- The feeling when welcome vistors arrive (7)
- 12 13 15 17 19 21 22 24 27 28 29 What you are finding – hopefully (7) Similar to a child's game (7)
- Essential to do for good bread (5)
- Desirable yeasty savoury cakes (8) Old blouse preferred with currants in (9)
- Up anchor (5)
- That to be paid in service or tax (4) The burden of publishing! (7,3)
- 30

DOWN

- Steeped, germinated and dried barley (4)
- Possibly Incas loot places to visit (9)
- Add afterthought for pump containers (5) Noun for being overweight (7) Frequent premarital condition (7)

- 1234578 Perfect description of your editor? (5) What one doesn't want to be at the end of (4,6)
- 9
- The frequency of Christmas (8) Aged packer perhaps means this was 14 necessary (10)
- 16 Records over and above (8)
- The star of, and reason for, this newsletter (9) What young mammals did (7) 18
- Visitor not always welcome by resident (7)
- 20 21 23 25
- In a way, greet this wader (5) The product of a millwheel (5) What our millwheel is under (4) 26

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SPOT THE TEN DIFFERENCES





NOUGHTS OR CROSSES?

2581423 FIND THE NEXT NUMBER

OTTFFSS... FIND THE NEXT THREE LETTERS

S LETTER WORD SPIRAL Find the word across the middle

	CLI	JES	
1	Digit	11	Deliver
2	Ornament	12	Consumed
3	Vessel	13	Drink
4	Suns	14	Conveyance
5	Dessert	15	Tend
6	Gift	16	Additional
7	Drank	17	Spirit
8	Caper	18	Clear
9	Relish	19	Aspiration
10	Gapes	20	Lesser



eyer or prey?

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Mike Whitby

Simon Ballard (our publicity guru, for those who do not know him) recently put some questions to photographer Mike Whiby, who, somewhat reluctantly (Mike spurns publicity, but, that's him and Pippa, bottom right) gave the following answers:

What's your background? Why Suffolk?

I moved to Suffolk just over 40 years ago for work purposes.

How did you start taking pics?

With the new mobile phone cameras I found this an easy way to start taking snaps.

What training do you have?

No formal training, just a keen observational interest.

Why do you do what you do? Fame, notoriety, love of Suffolk, technical challenge?

I just enjoy taking pictures and trying to find something different, or just a different aspect. I hope others enjoy them. I know, because people have commented, the pictures of Woodbridge have been enjoyed by those who could not get out during lockdown.



How does it work? Do you wake up and think, "I'm going to photograph x today"?

I don't have a particular plan of what and when to take pictures, it's just as the mood takes me.

What kit do you use?

The vast majority are taken on my Samsung galaxy phone because it's always with me and so simple to use.

What do you look for in a composition?

Landscape, but with a focal point such as a church.

What are your plans for Christmas?

Christmas this year will be quiet. An opportunity to go walking in the Suffolk countryside and to reflect on the last year.

Favourite artist/photographer?

Dali and Constable, and quite like Turner. I like to follow a webpage called "A Cambridge Diary" and I quite enjoy John Richardson's Woodbridge photos.







BUSKER'S CORNER

At the Tide Mill one day we had a school visit, They came full of questions and ready to quiz it, The Miller was here, to show all of his wonders, He did it quite well and made no nasty blunders, The great waterwheel showed its stately wet turning, The kids were delighted, their emotions all burning, And up to the Stone Floor for details galore, Now some minds were tiring - it's just a bit more, Then up to the Crown Floor with all its contraptions, But now kids are wandering, too many distractions, So, on with the Mouse Hunt, with squeals of discovery, And off back to school - and the Tide Mill's recovery!



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There is a Tide in the Affairs of a Mill

December 2020

A Journal of the Plague Year, by one who continued all the while in anguish. Fraser Hale, Curator.

December 30th 2019

The laughter and merry voices of children, their faces brightened by the chill, rang around the beams and gears of the Tide Mill. A seasonal craft morning saw the old building graced by many friends, old and new. And so with glad hearts we said farewell to the old year and turned, with hope, our faces to the new. Little did we know that, far away in China, an ill-starred relationship with a pangolin had already sown the seeds of pandemonium.

January 2020

Very soon after the excesses and sloth of the festive season (remember, a sloth is for life, not just for Christmas) preparations begin at the Tide Mill for the coming spring. This year was no different. The maintenance crew carried out a major service on each of the two working models of the Tide Mill. The large tide pond model was found to be holed below the water line, and had to be put in dry dock for repairs. John Wood brought along his caulking irons, and the model was soon back in service.

Dan Tarrant-Willis successfully navigated our Carbon Charter Review into the safe harbour of re-certification of our Gold Standard. The Tide Mill's diminutive carbon footprint stands, still, as an exemplar of efficient energy use!

Plans were laid for the coming year, under the careful husbandry of our chair of Trustees, John Carrington, the Management Team even agreed on a budget for the next twelve-month. From far beyond the Great Western Ocean, though, came tales of a pestilence that was ravaging the lands of the Silk Roads.

February 2020

The Trustees and Management Team continued to draw together plans for the Tide Mill's 850th Anniversary. A new exhibition was planned, curated and installed, social events for Friends, and celebration days for visitors were proposed and approved. During the second half of the month the corona-virus made its way to Europe via Italy and Spain. On the 29th February the first case is reported in Ireland. The next day Scotland will announce its first case.

March 2020

Despite reports of the rapid spread of the virus across continental Europe, the mood in the UK remains optimistic (in hindsight, some would identify this as denial) for the first few days of March. But things were moving fast. As the enormity of the situation dawned on the stalwart yeomanry of this fair island we retreated to our personal fortresses and took to enthusiastically ruining our best saucepans in support of our brave doctors and nurses. The Mill stands silent. Vivified by neither staff, nor guest, nor volunteer. No flour is made, no tours are led. The regular lap of the rising tide at the sluices goes unheeded. Yet, from outside, the Mill is still admired and cherished by those using the riverfront as the venue for their daily exercise.

April 2020

Despite the terror stalking the land, stout-hearted mill-folk are both reacting to the present and planning for the future. Under carefully controlled conditions, flour production resumes! The sudden, unaccountable, popularity of homebaking has created a dearth of flour in local stores. It seemed the Tide Mill's duty to step up and help to address this shortage. Dan and his teams convert a ton of grain into finest wholemeal flour in the space of three weeks. A

grateful nation responds by purchasing all that we can produce.

May 2020

Determined not to be downcast by the media barrage of fear-mongering, of inaccuracies and misinformation about the disease that is crushing the globe in it's coils, we at the Tide Mill decide to give everything a good, bright lick of paint! This initiative helps to boost the emergence from lockdown by the local building trades, as encouraged by our esteemed government. A smart white Mill in her new prophylactic coat is a splendid sight as we move into...

June 2020

There are signs in the hen entrails that the first wave of the virus is running out of 'Aarrrr', which is presumed to mean that it has spent itself upon the bastion barriers of the NHS. Thoughts at the Tide Mill turn to the prospect of opening, again, to the public. Much ink and candlewax is spilled in the production, editing, correction and revision of a Covid Secure Visitor Experience Policy. Whilst much of daily life has begun to return to something like normality, museums, along with cinemas, theatres and nail parlours remain closed. Starved of cultural stimulation (and French trips) East Anglians flock to the re-opened gardens of local heritage sites, and to the car-parks of large supermarkets. Inside the Tide Mill, the logistics of Covid Security are being playing out – perspex screens, hand sanitizer dispensers, deep-cleaning products, masks, gloves and one way signs abound, the result – "We're Good To Go"!

July 2020

The Tide Mill re-opens to its adoring public. On the first day, eight adoring publics come to visit. Word soon spreads, though, that he Mill is a safe and pleasant visit. Our greeterin-chief, Dan, thought by many to have been driven to madness by the solitude of the lockdown and the incessant slap of the waves sucking at the pit wheel, seems in fine spirits; visitors depart the Mill with a glad heart and lighter pockets.

August/September 2020

While restaurants and public houses struggle to find ways to work with a public apparently starved of both food and alcohol, the Mill enjoys relatively heady days. Though visitor numbers have to be controlled, we are quickly back to being sold out on many of the fine weekends with which the harvest season is blessed. Already, amidst indications that infection rates remain low despite the relaxation of restrictions, Britons re-emerge from their bunkers and attempt to salvage something joyful and positive from the year. But the pall of the infection is drawing itself, again across the face of the sun.

October 2020

As the summer shaded to autumn, the weather, along with the outlook, became rather more inclement. From somewhere in North East of England, Covid -19 had again found its 'Aarrr'. The much warned-of second wave pushed outwards from its epicentre, eventually slopping over the threshold of Suffolk. The three tier system was introduced and, while Suffolk managed to remain in the bottom tier, due to there being so few people per acre, the rising 'Aarrr' levels elsewhere meant that the only option open to the government was to impose a 2nd lockdown, and sack those that had providing such flawed political guidance thus far.

November 2020

'Lockdown 2 – This time it's Seasonal' is given a national release. The Tide Mill again closes her doors, though this time there is no hiatus in milling – there are Christmas

Continued on next page



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cakes to be mixed – again the milling teams answer the cries of a despairing nation. Reports abound of an almost miraculous advance in the production of vaccines that may eventually lay the pandemic spectre to rest. Lockdown 2 is scheduled only to run until December the second. Might there be yet a little hope for a joyous Noel?

December 2020

At the time of writing, gentle reader, December 2020 lies in the future. Quite what it, and the New Year, will bring is as yet unclear. After all that has passed in the last twelve month, I will say only these few words. Thus far the Tide Mill and its adopted family have been left largely unscathed by the pandemic – for that we are all hugely grateful. To all our Friends, supporters, volunteers, and to the reader of this newsletter, we extend our sympathies and support if you have fared less well; our felicity if you have been untouched by the ravages of the plague; our gratitude for your care and support; and our warmest wishes for a healthy, happy Christmas and New Year.

Stay safe

MILLER'S CHRONICLE

We are nearly at Christmas and the end of 2020 with the good news of a possible covid vaccine early in the new year.

The pandemic has affected us in many ways. Yet, as I write this none of us have become ill with covid and we have managed to supply flour, when allowed, to all of our customers. We have also managed, albeit, in an restricted way to be open to our public visitors.

In March we completely locked down and stopped flour production. When the national lock down was eased in May we started up again producing twice the amount of flour to make up for the shortage created by the lock down. So although production was interrupted for nearly two months with the increased production coming out of lock down our yearly production total will be approximately 10% higher than previous years.

From mid May with no public visitors the mill returned to it's original function and purpose as

ENGINEERING GAZETTE

Covid-19 has had a huge effect on everyone. It has meant that activities at the mill have had to be reduced and carefully organised, which has meant that a lot of the communal fun which we experienced with the mill open has now disappeared. Hopefully it won't be too long before we can get back to normal.

One good event which has been kept going by the milling teams is the production of flour. This obviously requires the running of machinery; therefore we have had to continue with the monthly maintenance and stone cleaning.

After several years running the engineers group I have decided that it is time for me to stand back and pass the job on to somebody else and am very pleased and happy to announce that the engineers will now be led by Rick Chapman, who I'm sure will do a great job.

I would like to thank all engineers for their great support over the last few years and am certain they will give their support also to Rick.

I will still be around but with less energy.

John Wood

a flour producing mill. The milling and bagging teams were reduced in number based on the age and health demographic of our volunteers. In July it was considered appropriate to safely reopen to the public on a prebooked, weekend only with a maximum of six visitors in the mill at any one time. This number was subsequently reduced in August to 5 by a government covid policy directive. These weekend openings went well with positive visitor feed back and the mill being awarded a Trip advisor 'travellers choice' award putting us in the top 10% of all attractions covered by Trip advisor world wide.

With the second lock down we are closed to the public again and although we had felt we could be open at weekends up until Christmas this has not be possible. We have strengthened our covid policy by practically demarcating our milling/ bagging teams. It occurred to us that if one of us became ill all of the team would have to isolate

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interrupting production. So the milling and bagging team has split into two smaller separate and non overlapping teams, This is the same for the engineers. We hope that in this way we will reduce the transfer risk and have a method practically in place that increases our chances of continuing to maintain production.

Frankly, all of the above has had to be dealt with and it has been a steep leaning curve with all the associated difficulties. Importantly, I feel that the mill as a whole has risen to these challenges and succeeded in maintaining some charitable revenue and albeit restricted public access with good visitor feed back.

Without the pandemic 2020 had great potential with everything in place and organised to be what was hopefully going to be a better year than 2019. With this in mind lets look forward with optimism to 2021.

Dan Tarrant-Willis

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December 2020

OLD MILL – NEW CLICKS By Simon Ballard

Opportunities to entertain ourselves are greater these days that ever before. New tv series, films, sport (to watch or play), gaming, social media, dining in, dining out - we are spoiled for choice. With all these competing temptations, how do you reach people to encourage them to visit a museum?

The Mill has a high profile. There has been a mill on the site for over 850 years. It is

'iconic' - to reuse an overused term. 'Widely recognized, widely known, well-established and acknowledged'. Locals know it's there and open (pandemics notwithstanding) for visitors. This is especially attractive to locals, day trippers and other visitors. Goodwill is strong. There is a sense that the Town is proud of 'its' mill. Those staying locally who ask where to visit will probably be recommended to visit the Mill. The Mill appears in local Guidea. It ranks highly in

local Guides. It ranks highly in Google searches for places to visit in the area. It appears on local tourist sites. It has a growing following on facebook, twitter and Instagram. It is well signposted. Awareness of the Mill is high even compared to its much bigger neighbour; Sutton Hoo.

Reaching a wider audience by 'old school' advertising is too expensive for a charity like the Mill. Traditionally a cheaper way to reach potential visitors

from further afield was to approach travel journalists. To encourage them to promote the Mill as a good place to visit. In today's slimmeddown press, conventional travel journalists are



2020 Travellers' Choice Choice Tripadvisor



an endangered species. To attract visitors from further atield the Mill would also need a 'package' that includes accommodation and an itinerary. Arguably one positive element of the digitisation of media is that it has bred a growing subculture of freelance travel bloggers and, with Trip Adviser, made travel writers of us all.

The Mill was delighted recently to be named amongst the top 10% hospitality businesses worldwide by Trip Advisor. That an 850-year-old enterprise could be so lauded by a 20-year-old travel app is a masterclass in adaptation. An actual <u>bread</u>-and-butter business employing 12th century technology is recognised by 21st century technology. With nearly 300 reviews and a high rating; the Mill's Trip Advisor presence – together with those on Google,

facebook, twitter and Instagram not only encourage and inform other visitors but also provides us with valuable feedback. For example, we learned to make wheelchair access to the ground floor easier and to publicise milling demonstrations more clearly from TripAdvisor feedback.

All museums have found lockdown a challenge. The Tide Mill, as it has done many times in the past, has

adopted a positive attitude to change and, in this case, started to expand its digital footprint. There is much more to be done.



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WOODBRIDGE TIDE MILL ONLINE SHOP LAUNCHES

Yes, you did read that correctly. Did you know that the Tide Mill now has an online shop to sell its merchandise? The shop launched at the end of October, and is available for you to make Christmas and 2021 purchases.

As you may know the Tide Mill costs around £5000 per month to run. This year the opportunity to generate income through having the mill open and making our Tide Mill merchandise available to the public via the shop inside the Mill has been severely limited by the impact of Covid-19. For the most part, since March the Mill has been closed to visitors during the week and only recently being open at weekends to small groups. At the time of writing, we now find ourselves in a second lockdown for England, and the Mill is closed to visitors once again.

But we still have our merchandise which is available to sell, and the Tide Mill Management Team decided to set up an online shop so that everyone would have a chance to browse and buy the items on offer and to support the Mill by doing this.

The online shop is already generating income to help offset the running costs and I would like to thank everyone who has visited and made purchases so far.

PUZZLE PAGE ANSWERS

AWARD YOURSELF A PRIZE FOR EVERY CORRECT ANSWER

NOUGHTS OR CROSSES The answer is 4 You were supposed to be counting the crossings. PREYER OR PREY The answer is both You need to look closely at the cat's nose and eyes.

FIND THE NEXT THREE LETTERS The answer is ENT Eight, Nine and Ten.

> FIND THE NEXT NUMBER The answer is 38

Add a pair of numbers, plus 1, each time So 2+5+1=8, 5+8+1=14, 8+14+1=23 and 14+23+1=38.

WHICH IS BIGGER, A OR B The answer is they are both the same

size. It's an optical illusion. Merry Christmas

CROSSWORD

	ACROSS	
1 6 11 12 15 17 9 12 24 28 9	Millstones Mill Lucam Engineers Stashing Unlit Ecology Delight Answers Toylike Knead Crumpets Garibaldi Weigh Duty	
30	Editor's Lot	

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 146 80 21	Malt Locations Sumps Obesity Engaged Ideal Last Tether Annually Repackaged Overdubs Gristmill Suckled Tourist
	• • • • • •
23	Egret
25	Power _{Bc}

Bonus > one shown dotted

WORD SPIRAL

26

Shot

Thumb, Bling, Glass, Stars, Sweet, Treat, Toped, Dance, Enjoy, Yawns, Serve, Eaten, Negus, Sedan, Nurse, Extra, Angel, Lucid, Dream, Minor. DECORATES

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PURPOSE: The purpose of this newsletter is to support and advance the objectives of the Trustees of Woodbridge Tide Mill. The newsletter provides all supporters a forum of their own, together with information about current and future events and it is hoped it will foster a sense of common interest and shared identity, encourage increased participation and entertain.

EDITORIAL POLICY: The editor has full editorial responsibility for the newsletter. Articles that appear and views expressed are not the official position of the Trustees on any subject, unless specifically noted as such. Items submitted for inclusion may be edited for grammar, style and/or space requirements and contributors wishing to be alerted of any changes prior to publication must notify the editor at the time of submission.

IMAGES: Unattributed images are by the article author/subject or Ed.



The shop is literally "open all hours" and you can browse and choose in the warmth and comfort of your own home. There is a range of items from mugs, tea towels, greetings cards, prints of the Tide Mill through to aprons and shopping bags. Something for everyone. Ideal for last minute gifts both for Christmas and into 2021.

You can find the shop at

https://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk/shop/

Please give us a look and help support the Tide Mill.

FLOUR SALES

The demand for the Tide Mill flour remains very strong, and in both lockdown periods we have seen the amount of flour leaving the Mill to be delivered to our retailers increasing significantly. This has meant additional work for the two milling and bagging teams to keep up with the demand. So far this calendar year (mid-November 2020) we have milled over 6 tonnes of grain, and since March we have delivered in excess of 3000 bags of flour to our customers. It makes you think about all the loaves and baked goodies that have been produced using the Tide Mill flour. In thanking everyone who has purchased Tide Mill flour, we look forward to what our home and professional baker customers will produce in Christmas 2021.



DIARY DATES FOR 2021

WHILST THE TIDE MILL REMAINS CLOSED, WE ARE SUSPENDING THE TABLE OF EVENTS, PENDING CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS LEADING TO A SAFE STRATEGY WITH REGARD TO THE CURRE COVID 19 SCARE.

