

HAWKHURST COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Helping the community beat the virus

Newsletter No. 19

20 November 2020

The newsletter is also published on our website:

www.hawkhurstcommunitysupport.com/hcsq-newsletter

A word from the Chair.....



I have just seen a news update suggesting that we might be starting to see the number of new COVID cases starting to level off. I really do hope that is correct as our regular update from TWBC this week was not very cheery: the number of cases in Kent has shot up and is now a little above the national average. Along with the rest of Kent, the number of new cases in Tunbridge Wells has also been increasing. The good news is Tunbridge Wells is doing better than the rest of the county. Unfortunately, there are now areas of Kent where the rates of new cases are in line with or worse than the hotspots in the North of England and the Midlands.

It was also disappointing to learn that TWBC Enforcement Officers are being kept very busy where businesses are not following the restrictions. This is so unfair on our local businesses who are following the guidelines and doing everything they can to keep us safe.

In our last newsletter, I mentioned that HCSG has been conducting a review of its operations. We are now nearing the end of this exercise, although we are still waiting to hear back from a few volunteers. If you haven't got back to us yet, please just get in touch and let us know either way. Thank you.

I am delighted that David Veale has agreed to become an Area Leader. I am also hugely grateful to Ruth and Jane who have both offered to add Area Leader to their already comprehensive list of responsibilities. I am sure they are very grateful to Carole, who will be joining the F4F team. Thank you all.

I feel so fortunate to be part of such an amazing team.

Take care.

Clare

Food4Families

Our Food4Families initiative, which supports families in need by providing essential groceries, is still going strong. We currently have 23 families on our support list.

Every Tuesday and Friday, volunteers deliver supplies, sourced from shopping expeditions and donations from generous local people and organisations, to our distribution point at the KGV Centre on the Moor. We welcome gifts of non-perishable food - please drop them into the collection box outside the vicarage.



St. Laurence church has just launched a 'reverse Advent calendar' project whereby instead of revealing gifts on 24 consecutive days, parishioners place a small donation of food or toiletries into a box each day and then hand it over to the church to forward to F4F.

Welcome to our new F4F volunteer - Carole Croft

We are very pleased to welcome Carole Croft to our team of F4F shoppers. Thank you for joining our wonderful team, Carole!

Coronavirus update

Since the start of the pandemic, the Borough has recorded 1,131 cases and 54 deaths*.

During the 7 day period to 14 November, 140 cases were recorded in the Borough: 118 cases per 100 thousand population, compared with 273 for England as a whole. Hawkhurst, Benenden and Sandhurst recorded 11 new cases in that period, equivalent to 123 per 100 thousand. Cranbrook, Sissinghurst and Frittenden recorded 7 cases, or 91 per 100 thousand.

**Deaths occurring from any cause within 28 days of a positive test for COVID-19.*

Source: Gov.UK - Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the UK.

A message from Waitrose Hawkhurst - Giving a little Love!



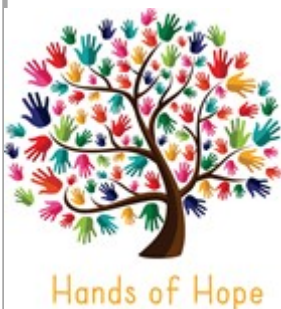
"This Christmas at Waitrose & Partners we are Giving A Little Love. We have partnered with Fareshare and Home-start UK to help give more families the Christmas they deserve.

Here at Waitrose & Partners Hawkhurst we are also supporting four local charities including The Hawkhurst Community Support Group. We know that a tremendous amount of support has already been given to families in need through this incredibly tough year and we are delighted to be able to help deliver an extra special Christmas for some of those families.

We pledge to Give A Little Local Love by donating all the ingredients, from the cranberry sauce to the turkey, for approximately 15 family Christmas dinners which will be given by the HCSG to the families in our community who need it most.

Because together we can make a big difference."

Hands of Hope



We're always pleased to give a mention to our lovely local charity, Hands of Hope, because they've been so kind and generous to our community. A few weeks ago they were providing produce from The Walled Garden on Moor Hill for our free vegetable distribution scheme. Now, they are still providing vegetables as a healthy eating contribution to our Food4Families initiative.

Hands of Hope are currently fundraising to extend their "Get Growing" programme for 2021. As well as tackling food poverty, "Get Growing" aims to encourage as many people as possible to grow their own food, no matter what space they have – from window-sill to patio to garden to community space to allotment. With the provision of grow kits and remote supported learning, the charity teaches communities the skills and benefits associated with growing in-season, local food whilst offering them the opportunity to become part of the Get-Growing community. This project is a direct and innovative response to the current Covid-19 crisis that offers opportunities not only to create a positive outcome in the short term but also to extend the concept into a sustainable "Get Growing Community" with recognised and lasting mental and physical health and environmental benefits.

If you'd like to know more about this worthwhile local project, and maybe make a contribution, please visit the fundraising page at <https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/get-growing>

Meet our new Area Leader

Say hello to our new Area Leader, **David Veale**. David has been volunteering for us from the beginning. He is taking over Rye Road from Lisa Carrie and Cranbrook Road from Abby Allen-Eslor.



David says:

"I was a child of the London suburbs and became familiar with Kent as a result of frequent family trips all over the county. I spent time in the North East and Cardiff but settled in London for most of my career. A biology teacher for six years, I opted for a career change to HR working in food manufacturing and London local government until retirement. I enjoy travelling and walking being a frequent visitor to the Lake District. I love music too, belonging to a choir based in Sevenoaks."

It was always a plan to move to the countryside eventually settling in Hawkhurst as a great place to live. The village combines a strong sense of community with amenity whilst having stunning countryside only minutes' walk from the front door. I wanted to contribute to village community life and became a Trustee of HCT 2018 and then a volunteer for HCSG. It's been great to have the opportunity to become an Area Team Leader and continue to support the village community."

In other changes to our leadership team, Ruth Saunders, our Volunteer Manager, is taking over the area leadership role at the Moor and Horns Hill, and Jane Cooper is managing the Highgate and Herschel Place areas.

We'd like to take this opportunity to say a big "thank you" to our departing Area Leaders: Abby; Lisa; Becca; Honey; Monica and Liz. They had the hard work of getting us up and running back in the Spring and we owe them a big hand.



Walkies!

Just a reminder that, in addition to shopping, collecting prescriptions and providing a "phone buddy" service, we also have a number of volunteers who offer to walk HCSG clients' dogs on a weekly or, possibly, more regular basis.

To enquire about this service, email us or call our helpline—details below.

