

HAWKHURST COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Helping the community beat the virus

Newsletter No. 11

26th June 2020

Welcome to the eleventh edition of the HCSG Newsletter.

The newsletter isn't printed in hard copy, but if you know of anyone who isn't on the HCSG distribution list but would like to read it, please refer them to our website where every newsletter is published weekly:

www.hawkhurstcommunitysupport.com/hcsg-newsletter



A word from the Chair.....

Well, 2020 has certainly been a very strange year so far. It's hard to believe that we have passed Midsummer's Day when, for many of us, it's felt like our lives have been paused for the past few months. With the slow but steady reopening of the shops and businesses, it feels as if the village is starting to wake up.

As we move forward and learn to live with the "new normal", I would like to think that we will continue looking out for each other as much as we have over the past few months. Our lives will necessarily be different: we'll need to think ahead more, be flexible, recognise that we can't necessarily do things the way we always have and be patient.

This week, I would like to pass on a couple of messages from North Ridge Surgery. Firstly, a quick reminder that the car park should *only* be used by patients who are disabled and unable to walk or those patients who have been specifically asked to come to the car park due to arrangements for COVID-19.

Also, a reminder that the Surgery has been organised into zones to ensure that everybody is kept safe. Part of this has involved establishing a Green Zone, which is a special area that is dedicated to patients who are extremely vulnerable/have been shielding. The practice has asked me to remind you that it is safe for you to visit the surgery.

Clare

Volunteer & Client numbers:

We currently have 137 volunteers and 187 clients registered with HCSG.



Hands of Hope

www.hohcharity.co.uk

Wanted: Volunteer Project Manager

Hands of Hope are a local charity dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. They have recently been transforming the heritage walled garden off Moor Hill into a productive market garden.

They have now kindly offered to provide fresh organically grown vegetables, free of charge, to our clients. The vegetables will be available as they come into season over the coming months.

We are now working with Hands of Hope to arrange the distribution of the produce. We have canvassed our clients to find out who would like to have these lovely vegetables delivered to their doors, and a number of our volunteers have very kindly agreed to help with the distribution.

We are now looking for a volunteer to manage this scheme, working in conjunction with Hands of Hope and our volunteer distributors.

If you can help, please get in touch with us at hawkhurstcommunity@gmail.com

Can you help us manage HCSG?

We are sorry to report that our amazing Volunteer Manager, Astrid Miller, will shortly be leaving us. Astrid is one of the founding members of HCSG and has done an outstanding job as a member of our close-knit team, helping to create the present efficient and effective operation. We shall be very sorry to see her go.

This means there will shortly be an opportunity for a suitable volunteer to step into Astrid's place as Volunteer Manager on HCSG's Co-ordination Group. The role of the Volunteer Manager is to manage and support the HCSG volunteer force, through the ten Area Managers, and to play a full part in the management of HCSG as a member of the Co-ordination Group. The role typically requires a commitment of roughly an hour a day and can be managed flexibly around other commitments.

The kind of person we are looking for will have good people skills and be well organised and a good team worker.

If you'd like to find out more about the role, please email us at hawkhurstcommunity@gmail.com and we'll be in touch.



**YOUR
VILLAGE
NEEDS
YOU!**

Hawkhurst Village Magazine - the future

The current, longstanding editor Mike Appelbe has decided to hand over the magazine as soon as a suitable new editorial team can be found.

The magazine is a successful monthly community-led magazine which is well-liked in the village and the intention is for it to remain in its current form, although improvements could always be made. It should not lose its historical connection with St Laurence Church and will welcome articles from community groups, churches,

business and the Parish Council to reflect village life in Hawkhurst.

It has been a non-profit making business with publishing and printing costs covered by advertisers. Due to the COVID 19 lockdown, the last publication was April 2020 but the hope is for it to start publishing again in Autumn 2020.

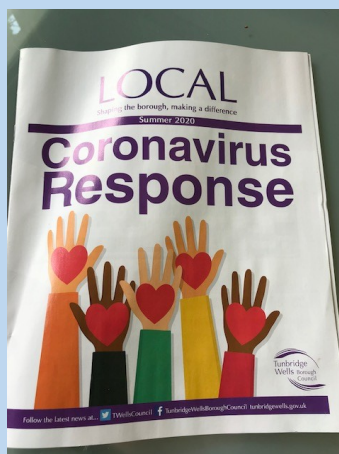
A new Hawkhurst Village Magazine "team" is now required – editor, finance, sales and publishing. Enquiries should be made directly to Mike Appelbe on **01580 752367** or email: **mike.appelbe@barrettsgreen.co.uk**



TWBC 'Local' magazine

'Local' is Tunbridge Wells Borough Council's quarterly magazine for residents, sent to over 49,000 households in the Tunbridge Wells borough. It covers news that is of interest to residents about council services and initiatives. Hawkhurst

Parish Council chairman Clare Escombe was approached by the magazine's Communications Team a couple of months ago and asked whether HCSG would like to feature in a round up of Covid-19 support groups in the borough. Working with the Editor of this newsletter, a summary with photos was duly submitted and we were delighted to see HCSG given such prominence in the magazine, distributed throughout the borough recently.



SHOPPING ONLINE - Part (2)

This is the second in our series of guides to online shopping, focusing on suppliers which take payment by credit card and deliver to you, so you can manage the whole transaction from your home.

In the last edition we looked at the offerings of the large supermarkets. This time we are looking at companies which supply boxes containing all the ingredients you need for a cook-it-yourself meal.

Cook-it-yourself meal boxes

We have found three popular suppliers of boxes containing all the ingredients you need to cook your chosen meals, including fresh vegetables, herbs, dressings etc. You can choose your meals for the week from an extensive selection of recipes and have them delivered to your door. Then you'll have the satisfaction of having settled some of the week's meals without the bother of shopping for ingredients, and you'll be reducing waste.

Here is a summary of their offerings – check out the websites if this appeals to you.

Mindful Chef	www.mindfulchef.com	Choose a weekly box containing the ingredients for 2 to 5 healthy meals from a selection of 16 recipes. Gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan options. No commitment required – cancel anytime.
Hello Fresh	www.hellofresh.co.uk	Seasonal, fresh ingredients for as many meals as you want, from a menu of 20 recipes, delivered weekly. Subscription required, but you can cancel at any time and skip deliveries if you don't want a box every week. Vegetarian and other preferences catered for.
Gousto	https:// cook.gousto.co.uk/ coronavirus-3	40+ tasty recipes to choose from each week with easy to follow recipe cards. Feeds 2-4. Delivered to your door every week. No subscription needed. <i>Note: Gousto have temporarily suspended new registrations but you can add your name to a waiting list.</i>

Local Shopping Online

There's a lot to be said for shopping online with local retailers. They often specialise in particular products and ranges and can offer fresh, high quality produce and personal service. It's also good to support local businesses. This week, the focus is on.....**the Weald Smokery.**

If you've never called in at the Weald Smokery then you're missing a food-lover's treat! This unique establishment specialises in the kind of high-quality, traditionally produced food you won't find elsewhere: fish, meats, cheeses and delicatessen fare. And, yes: their own home-smoked products. They also now stock fruit, veg, eggs, bread, flour, yeast, yoghurts, milk and all sorts of other essentials.

If you can't make it to their shop, situated just before the Flimwell lights, they have a very easy-to-use website offering a range of fish, meats and cheeses. Plus, gift boxes and hampers. You add your choices to your basket and check out using credit or debit card. Orders are normally despatched within 3 working days and you can select a preferred delivery date when checking out. Delivery costs £5.95 and is free for orders over £75.

If you are looking for something deliciously different, then look them up on:

www.wealdsmokery.co.uk

Meet the HCSG Team

We continue with introductions to our Area Leaders and Volunteers.
This week it's the turn of Volunteer **Jane Nudd** and Area Leader **Monica Blake**.



Jane Nudd
Volunteer, Highgate Hill

"I am a Volunteer for the Highgate Hill area and have lived in Hawkhurst for the last 20 years with my husband and 3 children. Having them all at home has given us some special time together as a family.

Volunteering and supporting those living alone during lockdown has been a valuable experience and it has been a pleasure to help others during this difficult time.

I like to paint and have spent more time gardening and looking after my chickens whose eggs I share with my clients."



Monica Blake
Area Leader, Herschel Place

"I've loved being a member of the HCSG and also, as a fairly new resident, discovering so much more of Hawkhurst. I've loved communicating with people in the area and can't wait to put some faces to the names.

Herschel Place is a very friendly, very supportive area so there has been relatively little need for the formal services of the volunteers. They have all been so helpful and responsive and the clients have been great, too.

I can't wait for a hair cut and manicure!"