

HAWKHURST COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Helping the community beat the virus

Newsletter No. 21

8 January 2021

The newsletter is also published on our website:

www.hawkhurstcommunitysupport.com/hcsq-newsletter

A word from the Chair.....



Happy New Year!

Maybe 2021 hasn't started the way we would have hoped, but at least we know that there is light at the end of the tunnel. No doubt the next few months will be challenging for all of us, but we will support each other through this as we did throughout last year.

The issue of vaccinations has caused a lot of angst recently. This is hardly surprising given the importance of the vaccinations and the dearth of clear information. As you can imagine, the task of vaccinating so many people in a short space of time is a huge logistical challenge.

Not surprisingly, most of the media coverage has been about the successful roll-out of the vaccine. In contrast, there has been little coverage showing the limited distribution of the vaccine to date. As a result, it can feel like Hawkhurst is being forgotten when we see people being vaccinated elsewhere. But, in fact, vaccination hubs in Dover, Folkestone and Tonbridge will all be starting next week.

Our local vaccination hub, in Headcorn, will also be opening next week. Your doctor will contact you to organise your appointment so please don't phone them to ask about the vaccine unless they have contacted you. There is a huge amount of administrative work required to ensure that everyone gets the vaccine, and unnecessary phone calls will delay this.

You can help your doctor by ensuring your contact details are up-to-date, particularly your mobile number. Please don't phone to update your details; update them online through Patient Access, by email or by letter. Thank you.

In case you have missed this, symptom-free COVID tests are now available at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells. Book an appointment online at <https://kcc.healthit.org.uk/covbook/home>

Take care.

Clare



These pictures show the fantastic spread the Food 4 Families team laid on at Christmas.

It was made possible by kind donations from Waitrose, Marlborough House School, St. Laurence Church and Kings Church Hastings food bank. Thanks also to Little Rascals Nursery and Pre Prep in Tunbridge Wells for a last minute donation of fresh milk, fruit and vegetables.

It was such a special, happy session—we had smiles, happy tears, and heartfelt thanks from all our families, and some lovely text messages too.

And now, to give our families a Happy New Year, Park Farm Butchers have again stepped forward with a generous gift of 20 packs of mince, which have been delightedly received.



Marlborough House School Father Christmas Run

In the last edition we reported on the Marlborough House School's "Father Christmas fun run to Lapland" to raise funds for families in need in Hawkhurst. Here is a report of the event.

"On Friday 4th December, MHS Prep School staff and pupils set off on their journey to Lapland. Everyone was in good spirits, the sun was shining and we had the lovely back drop of real snow! It was fantastic to see all of the children and staff dressed in their festive outfits and showing real dedication to completing as many laps as possible. It wasn't an easy run for them as they had to keep an eye out for the reindeer and the naughty elves who liked to throw snowballs at them, but in total they managed to run 307 miles, a great start to the journey of 1500 miles. The children (and teachers) got stuck in and had a memorable afternoon.

The children were sponsored per lap in order to raise money for Food 4 Families, a local charity providing Christmas lunches to families in the local community. We are very grateful for all of the sponsorship money which has come in. Our total so far is a magnificent £4.785.46!"

Amazing result! Thank you to pupils and staff of Marlborough House School.

Coronavirus update

Since the start of the pandemic, the Borough has recorded 3,769 cases and 115 deaths*.

During the 7 day period to 2 January, 664 cases were recorded in the Borough: 559 cases per 100 thousand population, compared with 612 for England as a whole.

Hawkhurst, Benenden and Sandhurst recorded 71 new cases in that period, equivalent to 791 per 100 thousand— well above the national average and five times the weekly rate reported in our last publication on 4 December. Cranbrook, Sissinghurst and Frittenden recorded 54 cases, or 703 per 100 thousand.

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

Sources: Data: Gov.UK. Table: BBC News

New lockdown rules for England



Stay home - only leave for work, essential shopping, exercise or medical appointments



Exercise allowed outdoors once a day, in your local area. You can exercise with your household, support bubble, or one other person



Schools closed except for vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers. Universities teaching online, with some course exceptions



No household mixing indoors or outdoors unless in your support or childcare bubble



Non-essential shops, leisure and entertainment venues closed



Pubs and restaurants closed, but takeaway food permitted

Vaccination programme

The biggest vaccination programme in the history of the NHS is underway. The Government hopes to have vaccinated 13 million people in the top four priority groups by mid-February. The jabs will be administered by more than 700 local vaccination sites as well as 180 GP-led sites, hospitals and some pharmacies.

If you'd like to keep up to date with planning for vaccinations in Kent, visit the Kent & Medway CCG Website at:

<http://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/your-health/coronavirus/covid19vaccine>

Please don't ring your GP surgery to ask them when and where you or others will receive their vaccination—they won't be able to give you any further information and it will distract them from other urgent work. **Wait for the call!**